



A touching ceremony, attended by young and old, took place on the beach at Costa Linda Resort on Aruba Monday morning to pay tribute to fallen comrades in arms on America's Memorial Day. (Aruba Today Photo) Page 13

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Obama pays tribute to fallen service members at Arlington

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP) — President Barack Obama on Monday saluted Americans who died in battle, saying the country must “never stop trying to fully repay them” for their sacrifices and noted it was the first Memorial Day in 14 years without U.S. forces engaged in a major ground war.

Speaking under sunny skies to some 5,000 people in an amphitheater on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the graveyard is “more than a final resting place of heroes.”

“It is a reflection of America itself,” he said, citing racial and religious diversity in the backgrounds of the men and woman who paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve “the ideals that bind us as one nation.”

His appearance is an annual rite for presidents at the cemetery nestled among verdant hills overlooking the Potomac River. It came months after the end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan, where the number of stationed troops has been reduced to about 10,000 from a peak of more than 100,000.

His tribute also took place against a backdrop of the increasingly complex U.S.-led effort to help Iraq defeat the Islamic State extremist group, which has been gaining momentum in recent weeks by capturing Ramadi there and taking Palmyra in neighboring Syria. Obama made no mention of America's participation with other nations

in the effort to stop the Islamic State. His effort there has come under intensifying criticism since the fall of Ramadi with lawmakers calling for a bigger show of American force there, in-

madi. The White House said in a statement that Biden's call “recognized the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces over the past 18 months in Ramadi and elsewhere.”

Earlier, troops stationed in that war-racked country observed a moment of silence in honor of fallen comrades there.

The Arlington observance was among a host of Me-

organizations. A Memorial Day parade also was held Monday in downtown Washington.

North Dakota marked the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the state's Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan. Gov. Jack Dalrymple directed all state agencies to fly the U.S. and state flags at half-staff, a practice put in place across the country. In South Dakota, Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked state residents to observe the president's request that Americans unite in prayer at 11 a.m. local time and that a moment of silence be observed at 3 p.m. for the National Moment of Remembrance.

Obama traveled by motorcade in late morning from the White House to Arlington and began his outing by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. He bowed his head briefly and listened with others to the playing of “Taps.”

Obama said most Americans don't understand the sacrifice made by the 1 percent of the population that serves in the all-volunteer Armed Forces. But when he meets with “Gold Star” families that have lost loved ones through military service, Obama said he hears “their pride through their tears.”

“I see that their hearts are still broken, and yet still full of love,” he said. “They do not ask for awards or honors. They do not ask for special treatment. They are unfailingly humble. In the face of unspeakable loss, they represent the best of who we are.” □



President Barack Obama and with the aid of Sgt. 1st Class John C. Wirth, right, lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

cluding ground troops.


Vice President Joe Biden spoke Monday with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and pledged full U.S. support for Iraqi efforts to reclaim territory from the Islamic State, including by speeding up the provision of U.S. training and equipment, the White House said. Defense Secretary Ash Carter had said in a nationally broadcast interview aired Sunday that Iraqi forces “showed no will to fight” and fled as the Islamic State advanced on Ra-

In his remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said most of the remaining troops should be removed from Afghanistan by the end of 2016.

He recognized the more than 2,200 “patriots” who sacrificed themselves in Afghanistan, including the final two to be killed before the U.S. combat mission ended late last year. He also recognized the first American killed during the “new mission” to train Afghan forces, an Army medic who died in April.

Memorial Day events nationwide featuring parades, picnics and tributes.


Presaging Monday's solemn event at Arlington was the roar of motorcycle engines throughout the nation's capital on Sunday as thousands of bikers saluted veterans with Rolling Thunder's “Ride for Freedom.” That was followed by a concert of patriotic music Sunday evening and Obama's private breakfast Monday at the White House with representatives of veteran and military family service



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Twister kills 13 in U.S.-Mexico border city; 12 missing in Texas

SETH ROBBINS
MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

CIUDAD ACUNA, Mexico

(AP) — A tornado raged through a city on the U.S.-Mexico border Monday, destroying homes, flinging cars like matchsticks and ripping an infant from its mother's arms. At least 13 people were killed, authorities said. In Texas, 12 people were reported missing after the vacation home they were staying in was swept away by rushing floodwaters in a small town popular with tourists.

The baby was also missing after the twister that hit Ciudad Acuna, a city of 125,000 across from Del Rio, Texas, sent its infant carrier flying. Rescue workers began digging through the rubble of damaged homes in a race to find victims.

The twister hit a seven-block area, which Victor Zamora, interior secretary of the northern state of Coahuila, described as "devastated."

Mayor Evaristo Perez Rivera said 300 people were being treated at local hospi-



Residents clear away debris from their home after a powerful tornado swept past in Ciudad Acuna, northern Mexico, Monday, May 25, 2015. A tornado raged through the city on the U.S.-Mexico border Monday, destroying homes and flinging cars like matchsticks. At least 13 people were killed, authorities said. The twister hit a seven-block area, which Victor Zamora, interior secretary of the northern state of Coahuila, described as "devastated."

(AP Photo)

tals, and up to 200 homes had been completely destroyed. Three people were unaccounted for.

"There's nothing standing, not walls, not roofs," said Edgar Gonzalez, a spokes-

man for the city government, describing some of the destroyed homes in a 3-square kilometer (1 square mile) stretch.

By midday, 13 people were confirmed dead — 10

adults and three infants.

Family members and neighbors gathered around a pickup truck where the bodies of a woman and two children were laid out in the truck's bed, covered

with sheets. Two relatives reached down to touch the bodies, covered their eyes and wept.

Photos from the scene showed cars with their hoods torn off, resting up-ended against single-story houses. One car's frame was bent around the gate of a house. A bus was seen flipped and crumpled on a roadway. The twister struck not long after daybreak, around the time buses were preparing to take children to school, Zamora said.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said he planned to travel to Acuna later in the day with officials from government agencies.

In the U.S., a line of storms that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes dumped record rainfall on parts of the Plains and Midwest, spawning tornadoes and causing major flooding that forced at least 2,000 Texans from their homes.

Witnesses reported seeing the swollen Blanco River push the vacation house off its foundation and smash it into a bridge. □

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Cleveland reaches deal with Justice Department on policing



A protester is arrested after the acquittal of Michael Brelo, a patrolman charged in the shooting deaths of two unarmed suspects in Cleveland. The city of Cleveland has reached a settlement with the Justice Department over what federal authorities said was a pattern of unconstitutional policing and excessive use of force, people briefed on the case said Monday.

MITCH SMITH
MATT APUZZO
© 2015 New York Times

CLEVELAND - The city of Cleveland has reached a settlement with the Justice Department over what federal authorities said was a pattern of unconstitutional policing and excessive use of force, people briefed on the case said Monday.

The settlement, which could be announced as early as Tuesday, comes days after a judge declared a Cleveland police officer not guilty of manslaughter for climbing onto the hood of a car and firing repeatedly at its unarmed occupants, both of them black. The verdict prompted hours of protests and reignited discussions about how police officers treat the city's African-American residents.

For Cleveland, a settlement avoids a long and costly court fight and the appearance that city leaders are resisting change. Mayor Frank Jackson faces a recall petition from city activists who say, among other grievances, that he has not done enough to prevent police abuses. The Justice

Department has called him a full partner in its effort to improve the police department.

The details of the settlement were not immediately clear, but in similar negotiations in recent years, the Justice Department has insisted that cities allow independent monitors to over-

see changes inside police departments. Settlements are typically backed by court orders and often call for improved training and revised use-of-force policies. A spokeswoman for the Cleveland Division of Police referred questions to the mayor's office, which said it would not comment Monday. Dena Iverson, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department, also had no comment.

The Justice Department has opened nearly two dozen investigations into police departments during the Obama administration. Federal investiga-

tors found patterns of unconstitutional policing in cities including Seattle; Newark, New Jersey; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Ferguson, Missouri. Federal authorities recently announced they would investigate the police department in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who died of

injuries he suffered while in police custody.

The Justice Department's report on the Cleveland Division of Police was among its most scathing. Investigators said in December that police officers unnecessarily used deadly force; used excessive force against mentally ill people; and inappropriately used stun guns, chemical sprays and punches. The report highlighted one case in which officers kicked an African-American man in the head while he was handcuffed and on the ground, then did not report using force in the arrest.

The report was compiled too late to cover the death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was playing with a replica gun in a park last November when police shot him.

"Supervisors throughout the chain of command endorse questionable and sometimes unlawful conduct by officers," Vanita Gupta, the Justice Department's top civil rights prosecutor, said in December. "Officers are not provided with adequate training, policy guidance, and supervision to do their jobs safely and effectively." □

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

DC police: Pressure cooker in suspicious vehicle

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bomb squad safely destroyed a pressure cooker found in a "suspicious" vehicle parked on the National Mall near the U.S. Capitol and the vehicle's owner was found and arrested, a U.S. Capitol Police spokeswoman said.

Police Lt. Kimberly A. Schneider told The Associated Press that officers on patrol noticed the vehicle Sunday

evening.

"Further investigation revealed a pressure cooker, and an odor of gasoline was detected," Schneider said.

Pressure cookers have been used to create explosive devices. Three people were killed and more than 260 others wounded in April 2013 when two pressure-cooker bombs were set off near the finish line of the

Boston Marathon.

Schneider said the bomb squad destroyed "items of concern in the vehicle including the pressure cooker." She did not immediately identify the other items. The vehicle's owner was found and identified as Israel Shimeles of the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia, Schneider said. Shimeles was arrested and charged with "oper-

ating after revocation," Schneider said. Schneider didn't elaborate on the charge. It wasn't immediately known if he had an attorney.

Schneider said authorities including the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force were assisting police.

The FBI did not immediately return a call for comment late Sunday. □

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On Anniversary:

Jurors gather at the site of Etan Patz's disappearance



Jennifer O'Connor, Juror No. 10 in the Etan Patz trial, the six-year-old boy who went missing, reads a few prepared words addressed to Patz at a short service at a makeshift memorial at the corner of West Broadway and Prince Street where the boy disappeared on this day in 1979, in New York, May 25, 2015. Seven jury members who voted to convict a former clerk of murder in his deadlocked trial met there.

(Sam Hodgson/The New York Times)

JAMES C. MCKINLEY Jr
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NEW YORK - They gathered quietly on the corner just feet from where prosecutors say Etan Patz was strangled in a bodega basement 36 years ago: seven jurors who had voted to convict a former clerk at the store of murder but were unable to convince one holdout among them. There were reasons for gathering, they said. It was May 25, the anniversary of Etan's disappearance and the day President Reagan Ronald named National Missing Children's Day in his honor. It also was Memorial Day. The jurors laid white roses and yellow tulips near a cellar door at West Broadway and Prince Street, where prosecutors say Etan was led down to his death.

Jennifer O'Connor, an event planner who was Juror No. 10, read a few prepared words, addressed to Etan. Tears came to her eyes as she spoke; some of the other jurors wept quietly. She said she strongly believed she now knew how Etan, who was 6 when he disappeared, spent his last moments in that filthy basement.

"I want you to know 11 people in that jury room heard you and fought for you, harder than we have for anything in our lives," she said, her voice breaking. "You are not forgotten."

The former clerk, Pedro Hernandez, 54, of Maple Shade, New Jersey, was arrested in May 2012, three decades after Etan went missing while walking two blocks from his parents' loft to a bus stop near the bodega. His case shocked the city and nation, leading to a sea change in the

way Americans viewed their children's security.

The case against Hernandez, who had worked in the bodega in 1979, turned on his confession to the police and later a prosecutor. The defense argued the confession was a fiction invented under police pressure by a man with low intelligence scores and a personality disorder clouding his sense of fact and fiction.

But prosecutors said Hernandez's account contained details the police could not have suggested to him, like the location he said he left Etan's body in a box: He led officers to an underground passageway on Thompson Street a block and a half from the bodega and noted - correctly, it was later proved - that it had not had a door in 1979. Etan vanished on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend in 1979, and the prosecution's theory was that his body was carted along with other trash to a landfill in New Jersey within hours of his death.

On May 8, Justice Maxwell Wiley declared a mistrial after 18 days of deliberations and three notes from the jury saying they were deadlocked. In the end, one juror, Adam Sirois, said he did not believe Hernandez's confessions were reliable enough to be proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Many of the seven jurors and one alternate juror who gathered Monday said they were bitter about Sirois' stand, which he has defended as a principled position based on what he saw as a lack of evidence. "He had an agenda," said Alia Dahhan, juror No. 1. "He used this as an excuse to become famous." □

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Once vilified, BP now getting credit for gulf tourism boom



Demarkis Mosley, left, and his wife, Alexandria, of Starkville, Miss., play in the sand on their vacation in Gulf Shores, Ala. Industry officials say Gulf Coast tourism is surging, five years after the BP oil spill.

(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

JAY REEVES

Associated Press

ORANGE BEACH, Ala. (AP)

— With the Memorial Day holiday here, fallout from the oil spill that left Gulf Coast beaches smeared with gooey tar balls and scared away visitors in 2010 is being credited, oddly, with something no one imagined back then: An increase in tourism in the region.

Five years after the BP disaster, the petroleum giant that was vilified during heated town hall meetings for killing a way of life is now being praised by some along the coast for spending more than \$230 million to help lure visitors back to an area that some feared would die because of the spill.

Questions remain about the long-term environmental impacts of the BP disaster, with a report released just last week finding a definite link between the spill and a record die-off of the bottlenose dolphins that tourists love to spot along the northern Gulf Coast. Pockets of oil still blot the sea floor and spots along

Louisiana's coast.

Meanwhile, many are still wrangling with BP over spill-related claims. Attorneys for businesses and individuals claiming damages from the spill announced a \$211 million settlement last week with Transocean Ltd., owner of the failed Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

Yet, at the same time, parking lots are full outside the same coastal hotels and condominium towers that struggled for business and slashed prices while crude was pouring into the gulf off Louisiana's coast in 2010. Visitors bob in surf where oil once washed in, and some restaurants have 90-minute waits for dinner on the weekend. Tourist business has doubled in Alabama's largest beach towns since before the spill, officials say, and Pensacola Beach, Florida, is so clogged with visitors that traffic is a primary problem.

Many attribute the change in large part to the millions of dollars that BP spent on tourism grants and advertising that promoted the Gulf Coast nationwide to people who previously

didn't even realize that Alabama and Mississippi had coastlines. "I've traveled as recently as the spring to California and there were people there who were saying, 'Hey, I saw those commercials about Alabama,'" said coastal condominium developer Bill Brett. "I really think those commercials helped."

Brett is an owner of Brett/Robinson Real Estate, where he said business is up about 30 percent since the year before the spill. The company has developed 19 buildings with more than 3,200 condo units on the Alabama coast, including one that was finished with a \$37 million settlement from BP after the spill.

The tourism surge isn't

happening in a vacuum: Many U.S. attractions have seen big increases during the same period as the economy recovered following the 2008 financial crisis and Americans returned to the road.

The theme parks of Orlando, Florida, helped draw a record 62 million visitors to the city last year, and the U.S. Travel Association expects Americans to spend about 5 percent more this Memorial Day than last.

But back in 2010, there were questions and fears over whether the tourist economy of the northern Gulf Coast would ever recover from the spill. Residents feared that images of oil-soaked birds and

blackened beaches would permanently change travel patterns and leave towns like Gulf Shores, Alabama, and Destin, Florida, as the forgotten coast.

Ted Scarritt, who offers tourist cruises in Orange Beach aboard his 53-foot catamaran "Wild Hearts," remembers crying and praying while the spill was happening. Scarritt, who also owns a beach service company, purchased the sailboat only months before the spill and had to keep it out of the oil-marred waters that summer.

Today all that seems like a bad, distant dream as he watches clear gulf waters slide past the hull during an afternoon of sailing off Alabama's coast. □



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Biden reassures Iraqi prime minister of US support

K. FREKING
S. N. YACOB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD/WASHINGTON

(AP) — Vice President Joe Biden reassured Iraq's government on Monday of U.S. support in the fight against the Islamic State group, telephoning Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi with thanks for "the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces" one day after Defense Secretary Ash Carter questioned the Iraqi military commitment. Biden's call came in the wake of harsh criticism from Iraqi and Iranian quarters after Carter questioned Iraqi forces' "will to fight" the surging Islamic State group.

A White House statement on Sunday describing Biden's call said the vice president welcomed an Iraqi decision to mobilize additional troops and "prepare for counter-attack operations." Biden also pledged full U.S. support to "these and other Iraqi

efforts to liberate territory from ISIL," the statement said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

In reaction to Carter's remarks, which were aired Sunday in a CNN interview, a spokesman for Iraq's

lutionary Guard, offered his own critical assessment of U.S. forces.

The heated exchanges came after the loss of Ramadi, and amid other gains by the IS in recent days. The statements laid bare



Local residents and Sunni tribal fighters welcome newly-arriving Iraqi Shiite Hezbollah Brigade militiamen, brandishing their flag, who are joining the fight against Islamic State group militants in Khalidiya, 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq.

(AP Photo)

prime minister suggested the defense secretary had "incorrect information," while Gen. Qassim Soleimani, the head of the elite Quds forces in Iran's Revo-

lutionary Guard, offered his own critical assessment of U.S. forces. The criticism from both Iraq and Iran began when Carter told CNN's

"State of the Union" that Iraqi forces "vastly outnumbered" the Islamic State group, but still "showed no will to fight" and fled the IS advance on Ramadi.

On Monday, Saad al-Hadithi, a spokesman for al-Abadi, said his government was surprised by Carter's comments.

"We should not judge the whole army based on one incident," al-Hadithi told The Associated Press.

Al-Hadithi said the Iraqi government believes the fall of Ramadi was due to mismanagement and poor planning by some senior military commanders in charge. However, he did not elaborate, and no action has been taken against those commanders.

In Iran, the daily newspaper Javan, which is seen as close to the Revolutionary Guard, quoted Soleimani as saying the U.S. didn't do a "damn thing" to stop the extremists' advance on Ramadi.

"Does it mean anything else than being an accomplice in the plot?" he reportedly asked, later saying the U.S. showed "no will" in fighting the Islamic State group.

Soleimani said Iran and its allies are the only forces that can deal with the threat. "Today, there is nobody in confrontation with (the Islamic State group) except the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as nations who are next to Iran or supported by Iran," he said.

U.S. officials, including Carter, have said Iraqi forces fled the Islamic State advance on Ramadi without fighting back, leaving behind weapons and vehicles for the extremists. So far, the American approach to the conflict has been to launch airstrikes as part of an international coalition it leads, as well as equipping and training Iraqi forces. But U.S. officials also have become uneasy with Iran's growing role in the conflict. □

Army chiefs plan for proposed joint Arab force in Mideast

MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Army chiefs of staff of Arab countries have drafted a protocol for a new joint force to intervene in Middle East hotspots on missions ranging from fighting Islamic militants to Iran-backed groups — despite lingering disagreements on some details, including where to base the force's headquarters. The plan, drafted at a

gathering Sunday in Cairo, describes where and how the force would be put into action. Membership is "voluntary," the draft says, and if only three of the members sign up, it's enough to put the plan into action. A decision to intervene would be based on a request from a member state "facing threats."

The idea of an Arab joint force has already been tested in the ongoing Saudi-led coalition's airstrikes

against Shiite rebels in Yemen. But observers say that in cases like Libya, consensus on a military intervention would be difficult since different Arab countries support rival parties in the North African nation.

Defense ministers of member states would run the force, with two-thirds of votes required to pass decisions. Military plans on engagements would be up to the member states' military chiefs.

However, there was dissension over the force being headquartered in Cairo, the home of the Arab League. Qatar and Algeria objected to the location, said officials who attended the gathering. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

Qatar has been at odds with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and has previously backed his

predecessor, ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi and his now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, which has been banned as a terrorist organization by Egypt and some other Arab states.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter endorsed the Arab joint force plan and State Department officials said that the United States was waiting to see the exact structure and operational mandate of the joint □



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At Press Time:

Afghan official: 19 police, 7 soldiers dead in ongoing siege

MIRWAIS KHAN
Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban gunmen have surrounded a police compound in the volatile southern province of Helmand after killing 19 policemen and seven soldiers in an ongoing siege, a senior police officer said on Monday from inside the compound.

Napas Khan, the police chief in the Naw Zad district, told The Associated Press by telephone that the insurgents had advanced to within 20 meters (65 feet) of the compound after seizing police vehicles and weapons and blocking all roads out of Naw Zad.

"We need an immediate response from the government," Khan said.

He said the attack started at before dawn on Monday when the insurgents overran multiple police checkpoints across the district.

"They destroyed or captured most of our checkpoints and now they have reached our police headquarters," Khan said. "They are mostly firing at us from the hills overlooking our compound."

As Khan spoke, gunfire and shouting could be heard in the background.

Helmand has long been a heartland for the Taliban, who profit heavily from opium produced in its fertile river valley.

Government forces launched an operation against the insurgents in March, in the hope of reducing the impact of the Taliban's annual warm weather offensive.

Since that offensive was launched, however, in late April, attacks across the country have intensified, spreading government forces thin.

As well as the time-worn guerrilla-style tactics of fight-and-run, the insur-



Afghanistan, security forces take position during a fighting outside a government compound in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Taliban gunmen have surrounded a police compound in Helmand after killing 19 policemen and seven soldiers in an ongoing siege, a senior police officer said on Monday from inside the compound. (AP Photo/ Abdul Khaliq)

gents have also stepped up assassinations and kidnappings. Also on Monday, a suicide

truck bomb attack and a separate roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan killed 11 people and wounded dozens more, as the Taliban clashed with supporters of the Islamic State group in the west, officials said.

Gov. Asif Nang said the Taliban have been clashing with rival insurgents claiming allegiance to the IS group for three days in the western Farah province, leaving at least 10 Taliban fighters and 15 IS supporters dead. He provided no further details.

The clashes provide the latest indication of a small but growing Islamic State presence in the country. □

Gunman, 7 other soldiers killed in Tunis military barracks attack

BEN BOUAZZA
Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A Tunisian soldier opened fire on fellow troops at a military barracks in the capital Monday, killing seven people before he was himself killed, a spokesman for Tunisia's Defense Ministry said.

Belhassen Oueslati said 10 others were injured in the shooting, including one person who was in a serious condition.

He described the incident as an "isolated act, not a terrorist act" and said the motive will be determined

by an investigation.

Police reinforcements were sent to the area after the shooting, combing nearby streets, while a helicopter circled overhead.

The Defense Ministry said a nearby school was also evacuated.

Authorities sought to calm the public in a city where tensions remain high after an attack on the National Bardo Museum on March 18 that killed 22 people, mostly foreign tourists. The shooting at the Bouchoucha barracks was about a kilometer from the museum. □




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Spain leader blames austerity for election results

CIARAN GILES
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's prime minister acknowledged Monday he was disappointed with his party's showing in local elections, which he attributed largely to austerity measures his government was compelled to take during Europe's recent debt crisis and a recent string of political scandals.

The elections Sunday in many Spanish cities and regions dealt a serious blow to Mariano Rajoy's governing Popular Party. Two new parties carved out king-maker roles by capitalizing on voter disaffection with established parties for their handling of the economy among other reasons.

Though the conservative Popular Party won the most votes overall, capturing 27 percent of votes cast, it lost the absolute control it had in eight of the 13 regions, including in its traditional power bases of Madrid and Valencia. The party lost 2.5 million voters since the last local elections four years

ago.

Rajoy, who is also the Popular Party's leader, said economic recovery and job creation are priorities before Spain's general

"We have to get closer to the Spanish people and communicate better with them," Rajoy told a news conference after a meeting of his party's national

for seats in more than 8,100 town halls and 13 of 17 regional governments

But the left-wing We Can party and the centrist Citizens party, two organizations that only began operating on a national level last year, finished a strong third and fourth.

We Can leader Pablo Iglesias said Monday the result spelled the end of the two-party system that has dominated Spain for nearly 40 years.

"The message is that 2015 will be the year of change," he said.

Between them, the Popular Party and the Socialists only garnered 52 percent of the nationwide vote Sunday, down from 65 percent in the 2011 election, but they did manage to avert the political meltdown some had predicted.

The conservatives appear to be losing their 20-year grip on Madrid's prestigious town hall, where a left-wing coalition of new parties, including We Can, is best positioned to install their candidate for mayor. □



Leading Spanish social activist Ada Colau, who beat the candidate of the Catalonia region's long-dominant conservative Convergence and Union party in Sunday's local elections, gestures during a press conference in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, May 25, 2015. Colau says the fight against evictions, poverty and corruption will be her priority as new mayor of the country's second city, Barcelona.

(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

election this fall. A nearly eight-year economic crisis has left the country with a 24 percent unemployment rate.

Rajoy also accepted that corruption scandals involving his party had eroded public support.

executive committee. He said he had no plans to reshuffle his Cabinet.

The opposition Socialists, who came in second with 25 percent of the vote, saw their total number of supporters drop half a million to 5.6 million in the ballot

Cameron outlines who in UK can vote in EU referendum

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's prime minister on Monday outlined who will be allowed to vote in a referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union, opting to exclude most voters from the other 27 EU nations living in the U.K.

Prime Minister David Cameron announced the parameters ahead of introducing legislation Thursday in Parliament to organize the ballot. No date has been set for it yet but Cameron is committed to holding the referendum by 2017.

His plans include a tour of European capitals to press his case that the EU needs to be reformed, hoping that the upcoming vote in Britain will convince those on the continent that Britain is determined to enact change.

Cameron plans to travel to Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Poland and Germany this week as part of his efforts to talk with all of the leaders of the EU member states before the European Council late next month. Under the referendum measure, the vote will be open to those allowed to vote in British elections rather than rules used for European Parliament or local elections.

Cameron said U.K.-resident citizens of four other EU members — Ireland, Commonwealth members Cyprus and Malta, and the U.K.'s own territory of Gibraltar — will be eligible to vote, while citizens from 24 other EU nations will not.

This means more than half of eligible voters among the 2.8 million non-British EU citizens living in the United Kingdom will be denied a ballot in the referendum. □

Conservative challenger Duda wins Polish vote

VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Conservative challenger Andrzej Duda has won Poland's presidential election and ousted the incumbent in a runoff vote, according to official results Monday. Duda, a right-wing member of the European Parliament, won with 51.55 percent of the vote, the State Electoral Commission said. President Bronislaw Komorowski, allied with the ruling pro-business Civic Platform, garnered 48.45 percent in the second round of voting on Sunday. Turnout was 55.34 percent in this nation of more than

37 million people. Duda, a 43-year-old lawyer with experience in the government, will be taking office in August, for a five-year term.

Duda, a Roman Catholic, traveled on Monday to the Jasna Gora shrine in Czestochowa, and prayed there.

"Regardless of whether they voted for me or not, I would like Poles to say after those five years that I really tried to be the president of all Poles, that I tried to answer their needs, that I was such a person," he said.

Duda's win is a serious warning for the ruling pro-EU government, in power

since 2007, before fall parliamentary elections. It could herald a major political shift in the European Union's sixth-largest economy, a country that has been able to punch above its weight in Europe without belonging to the 19-nation eurozone. Poland's influence is underlined by the fact that one of its own, Donald Tusk, now heads the European Council in Brussels.

Poland's president has limited powers, but is the head of the armed forces, and can propose and veto legislation. On foreign policy issues, the president's role is chiefly ceremonial.

The return of the Law and Justice party to power would cement Poland's turn to the right, create a new dynamic with other European countries and possibly usher in a less welcoming climate for foreign investors.

Law and Justice presents itself as a protector of those who haven't benefited from the capitalist transformation and as a defender of national interests abroad. It is staunchly pro-U.S., but has a sometimes defiant stance toward other European partners, which has created tensions in the past with the EU and neighboring Germany. □

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Businesses quietly switch to dollar in socialist Venezuela

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— It's still possible to buy a gleaming Ford truck in Venezuela, rent a chic apartment in Caracas, and snag an American Airlines flight to Miami. Just not in the country's official currency. As the South American nation spirals into economic chaos, an increasing number of products are not only figuratively out of the reach of average consumers, but literally cannot be purchased in Venezuelan bolivars, which fell into a tailspin on the black market last week.

Businesses and individuals are turning to dollars even as the anti-American rhetoric of the socialist administration grows more strident. It's a shift that's allowing parts of the economy to limp along despite a cash crunch and the world's highest inflation. But it could put some goods further out of reach of the working class, whose well-being has been the focal point of the country's 16-year-old socialist revolution.

The latest sign of an emerging dual-currency system came earlier this month when Ford Motor Co. union officials announced the company had reached a deal with officials to sell trucks and sports utility vehicles in dollars only.

A few weeks earlier, American Airlines said it had stopped accepting bolivars for any of its 19 weekly flights out of Venezuela. Customers must now use a foreign credit card to buy the tickets online. Virtually all other foreign carriers have made the same switch with the government's consent, according to the Venezuela Airlines Association.

Driving the shift is the crum-

bling value of the bolivar, which has lost more than half its value this year, plunging to 400 per dollar on the free market as Venezuelans scramble to convert their savings into a more stable currency.

It's a politically uncomfortable situation for President Nicolas Maduro, who regularly leads chants of "gringo go home" and says currency speculation is one of the main tools used by enemies to try to sow chaos and force him from power. It's not just businesses chasing greenbacks. Real estate contracts are still drafted in bolivars to satisfy a requirement imposed by late President Hugo Chavez, but in upscale neighborhoods most owners operate outside the law and sell and rent in dollars only. A group of realtors in tony eastern Caracas has established a password-protected website for listings in dollar prices. Analysts say the administration likely sees a limited dollarization as the only way to prevent multinationals from leaving the country altogether, as Clorox did last year, citing problems brought about by decade-old currency controls, supply shortages and inflation that hit 68 percent last year, and economists believe is now well into the triple digits.

Production at Ford has fallen by 90 percent as the company struggles to gain access to dollars needed to import parts. Customers will now transfer Ford dollars in advance to pay for the import of the parts needed to assemble the cars in Venezuela, according to union officials.

Foreign airlines made their switch to dollars after the government refused to let them convert and repatriate \$4 billion in ticket sales



Shoppers queue outside of a supermarket in downtown Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelans continue to struggle to find basic goods including detergent and sugar. Most of the shortages in Venezuela are driven in part by the country's tight currency controls, which make it hard to get dollars at a subsidized rate for imports while creating a thriving black market for currency. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

held in the country. Meanwhile, inflation is racing so fast that ATMs have failed to keep pace. Many deliver a maximum of just \$1.50 worth of bolivars per transaction. Some shoppers stay away from cash altogether, according to reports in local media, leaning more heavily on credit cards so they can pay for purchases later, when they'll cost less in dollar terms thanks to inflation. Decade-old price controls make staple items ridiculously cheap for all Venezuelans.

Continued on page 27

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Suriname elections to decide government for next 5 years



Suriname's President Desi Bouterse speaks with journalists at the presidential cabinet office in Paramaribo, Suriname. Bouterse is betting that the Monday, May 25, 2015 election to choose the South American country's next Parliament will keep him and his party in power for another five years.

(AP Photo/Edward Troon)

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP) — Suriname's President Desi Bouterse is betting that Monday general elections to choose the South American country's next Parliament will keep

him and his party in power for another five years. Most recent polls conducted in Suriname give a comfortable majority to Bouterse's National Democratic Party. The 69-year-old was

military dictator of Suriname twice after leading coups and has been convicted in absentia of drug trafficking, but was elected democratically in 2010 to his current term in the eth-

nically diverse country of about 550,000 people.

Bouterse promised a landslide victory in Monday's election. His party needs a two-thirds majority of 34 seats in Parliament for him to be automatically re-elected as party leader without forging a coalition. Bouterse's biggest rival is Chan Santokhi, a former justice minister who leads a new opposition coalition that calls itself the V7 alliance. Santokhi and his coalition accuse the government of corruption and such bad financial mismanagement that public debt has increased from roughly \$295 million in 2010 to \$1.7 billion now.

Bouterse has loomed over Surinamese politics for decades. He first came to power in 1980, when he led a coup that saw the constitution suspended and Parliament dissolved just five years after independence from the Netherlands. Un-

der international pressure he allowed the return of civilian rule in 1987, only to launch a second coup in 1990. His strategic coalition-building with former political enemies got him the presidency in 2010. Some of those old alliances fractured in recent years, but recent polls have indicated Bouterse remains popular. But he is dogged by old allegations of corruption. Convicted of drug trafficking in absentia in 1999 in the Netherlands, he was sentenced to 11 years but avoided that punishment because Suriname doesn't have an extradition treaty with its former colonial ruler. Since 2010, he has also had immunity as head of state. Earlier this year, a U.S. judge sentenced Bouterse's son Dino to serve over 16 years in prison after he admitted that he offered a home base in Suriname to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. □

Mexico officials stand by account of deadly ranch shootout

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — Mexican officials stood by their account Monday of a shootout that killed 42 suspected criminals and one federal police officer last week, dismissing questions raised about the lopsided death toll.

"There was not one single execution, I can say that categorically," Enrique Galindo, head of Mexico's federal police, told local media.

The 42 men died Friday during a three-hour gun battle on a ranch in Michoacan

state. Officials say the fight began when police officers came under fire while responding to a report of armed men taking over the Rancho del Sol, in Ecuandureo, a township near the border with Jalisco state. It was the deadliest such confrontation in recent memory and followed two deadly clashes in the area controlled by the powerful Jalisco New Generation cartel: The gang is blamed for an ambush that killed 15 state police officers in April and for a May 1 attack in which a rocket launcher shot down an army heli-

copter, killing eight soldiers. Families of some of the men killed on Friday told The Associated Press that after viewing the remains of their loved ones, they doubted the official account.

Relatives gathered at a local morgue said one body was missing an eye and had facial bruising, another had its teeth knocked inward.

Another had a gunshot in the top of the head. Galindo said a helicopter gunship had participated in the shootout and that its role had been decisive. "If the helicopter had not ar-

rived, the death toll might have been different."

National Security Commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido said at a news conference later Monday that the helicopter had been hit three times by bullets from an AR-15 assault rifle.

Authorities detained three people and confiscated 38 semi-automatic weapons, two smaller arms, a grenade launcher and a .50-caliber rifle. They had initially said they seized 40 weapons.

Speaking to the television network Televisa earlier Monday, Rubido said tests

on the bodies of the victims showed they had been shot "from a considerable distance ... dozens of meters (yards)," ruling out anybody having been finished off at close range.

An official from Michoacan state, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press, said all the dead were men and most died from gunfire.

Rubido said the three men arrested were "the only three who when told to surrender, did so."

The others refused and continued shooting." □



Held for the Eleventh Year: This Year's Memorial Service at the Costa Linda was Bigger Than Ever!



EAGLE BEACH - A touching ceremony, attended by young and old, took place on the Costa Linda Beach Monday morning at 10am to pay tribute to fallen comrades in arms on America's Memorial Day. A group informally dubbed "the Costa Linda vets," consisting of Frank Nini, Maureen Nadal

and Griff McElroy, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, were joined by their good friends and other island visitors. The group welcomed scores of participants, and, as was their wish, from various armed services, as the Costa Linda Vets assert their remembrance for Veterans worldwide.

The five-minute ceremony was called to order promptly. It included a "presentation of arms" by "the detail" of about 50 actual veterans who attended followed by a short section from the poem "Christmas in the Trenches" by John McCutcheon read by Rod Mandler, while Griff

Mc Elroy placed the memorial wreath of beautiful fresh flowers out to sea finished with a rendition of taps, a salute of respect and a minute of silence. The Costa Linda Vets express their gratitude to all those who came to share the moment; those attending, many with tears in their

eyes, came to thank them in return for making the effort to provide this annual tribute. Another "thank you" goes out the General Manager of the Costa Linda Resort, Mr. Luigi Heredia, for providing the juices and freshly baked doughnuts to be enjoyed by all after the touching ceremony. □



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Bringing Bourbon County to Aruba: At Sidebar Bistro, Aruba's First Bourbon Tasting With Jason Brauner!



ORANJESTAD - On Thursday May 28th, the new restaurant in Renaissance Marketplace, Sidebar Bistro, is introducing its first Bourbon Tasting, hosted by Bourbon authority Jason Brauner from Louisville, Kentucky. Sidebar Restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace does not only stand out because of its high-end Angus Beef gourmet burgers and wide variety of draft beers, but also because of Aruba's largest selection of Bourbon. You can choose from 64 different bottles. Once you try the various Bourbons or Bourbon cocktails, you will be lost. This is another world, unknown on Aruba, where your taste buds will be partying and the lingering aftertaste of a premium Bourbon will be a cherished memory for a long time to come. Sidebar is specialized in Bourbons, so expect a wall filled

with the best brands from Kentucky. Next to that wall will be an intriguing line-up of wooden barrels with pre-mixed, aged Bourbon cocktails; the bartender can tap your favorite cocktail from the barrel! Imagine your Mint Julep, your Manhattan or Kentucky Derby on tap! Jason Brauner is the founder of Louisville's hottest bourbon establishment, Bourbon Bistro. Years of experience with serving this precious spirit and dealing with world's most famous and impressive distillers like Jim Beam, Four Roses, Evan Williams, Buffalo Trace, Brauner will make his way to Aruba to enlighten us on characteristic differences between single barrel bourbon, small batch bourbon and wheated bourbon. During Sidebar's bourbon tasting, held Thursday May 28th from 7pm till 9pm



he will let you taste five high end bourbons and will disclose all secrets to fully enjoy this whiskey from Kentucky. As they say in Bourbon County: "All bourbon is whiskey, but not all whiskey is bourbon." The unique character of bourbon and the precious preserved distill process have made bourbon one of the most popular spirits in the world. The event will be complimented by Sidebar's Chef Ricky Croes, with matching menu teasers at one very special price! Since availability is limited reservations are needed. Contact Sidebar at 583-5511 or email info@sidebararuba.com to reserve your seat. Sidebar Bistro is located at Renaissance Marketplace across from Ocean Suites and is open daily from 8am till midnight (weekends till 1am). □





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Aruba Marriott Wins Prestigious Regional Awards For 2014!

--Sales Leader of the Year and Marketing & Ecommerce Team of the Year.

PALM BEACH - The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino has recently been awarded with two prestigious recognitions as Sales Leader of the Year and Marketing & eCommerce Team of the Year for the Caribbean & Latin America region.

Carolina Voullieme, Director of Sales & Marketing, was recognized as the 2014 "Sales Leader of the Year" for the region. Selected from the Leadership Excellence nominees by Marriott International's Management Team, Ms.

Voullieme was awarded this significant recognition for her passion and commitment to her position as leader of the Sales & Marketing Team. Ms. Voullieme has been with the Aruba Marriott since 2013 and is responsible for leading the hotel sales, marketing and communications activities, as well as maximizing revenue generation for the property.

Additionally, under the leadership of Caroline Voullieme, the team of Marketing & eCommerce supported by Stacey Banfield and Christine Leo, forming part of the Sales & Marketing, received a momentous recognition as



Marketing & eCommerce Team of the Year for the CALA region. The team of Sales & Marketing was extremely happy to have received this meaningful acknowledgement, which was granted as a result of a successful year for the resort with a significant revenue growth on ArubaMarriott.com, attainment of over 20K Facebook fans within a year and over \$10 million in PR ad value.

"I'm honored to receive these two prestigious accolades; it is a reflection of my team's commitment to excellence and Marriott's effort to develop young local talent. Aruba's young generation is full of energy and eager to grow within the hospitality industry and together with Marriott's philosophy of talent development, it is the ideal opportunity to cultivate homegrown leaders" said Ms. Voullieme. □



Creating a Prototype in 48 Hours; co.lab Aruba Organizes First Ever 'ATECH* Hackathon'

ORANJESTAD - Bring together a group of developers, designers and marketers, give them a topic, 48 hours think of a problem related to the topic and create a website, app or software that solves that problem. That's what the ATECH* Hackathon was all about.

Last weekend co.lab Aruba, with support from SETAR N.V., organized their first Hackathon as a part of "Road to ATECH*", a series of events leading up to the big conference to be held the 28th and 29th of August: ATECH* Conference. On Friday, an introduction and briefing was held at co.lab Workspace, where the rules and criteria for the Hackathon were presented to the different teams that signed up. The topic chosen: Transportation. Choosing a broad topic allowed the teams to iden-



tify diverse problems that could be solved. Based on these problems the groups got the task to create a web and/or mobile app or software to solve the problem. The teams broke out to brainstorm right away and had until Sunday to work on their prototype.

After working on their prototype on Saturday and Sunday in the SETAR N.V.'s

Training Facility, the groups had to present their prototype and convince the judges that they had the best prototype. The panel of judges consisted of Mr. Daniel Koolman and Ms. Indra Lampe of SETAR N.V., Juni Croes of Domino's Pizza, Stephen Daal of Interport, and Kri Croes of TechnologyHaus.

The judges and all present

were amazed by the professional, and innovative presentations and prototypes presented, especially considering that the teams only had 48 hours from start to finish.

In the end, the team Uninhibitrons with their prototype dubbed Delivery, came out winning the ATECH* Hackathon. All the other teams -Impostor Syndrome, Bureau Innovatie+ and YGMT- were also highly complimented and applauded by their effort. Organizers co.lab Aruba and the panel of judges hope to see all teams continue to work out their prototype and actually launch their product to the market.

co.lab Aruba would like to thank all the partners that supported the event. A word of appreciation goes out to their main partner SETAR N.V. who also provided their offices and personnel.



co.lab Aruba also thanks Domino's Pizza and Subway that made sure that the teams were well fed and energized to work through the weekend.

For more information on co.lab Aruba and ATECH* Conference, go to www.colab-aruba.com and www.atechconference.com and also like their Facebook page. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





This Nov. 23, 2014, file photo shows San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle Ray McDonald (91) on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

Chicago Bears release Ray McDonald after arrest

KRISTIN J. BENDER
ANDREW SELIGMAN

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The Chicago Bears released defensive end Ray McDonald following a domestic violence arrest in Northern California that police say stemmed from an assault on a woman who was holding a baby. McDonald was taken into custody at 7 a.m. Monday on suspicion of domestic violence and child endangerment, Santa Clara police Lt. Kurt Clarke said. Police say the assault happened at his home in Santa Clara. He was found about three hours later at a home in San Jose and arrested. Police did not disclose if the woman or the baby were injured.

The Chicago Bears released a statement Monday afternoon about the decision to let McDonald go.

Continued on page 22

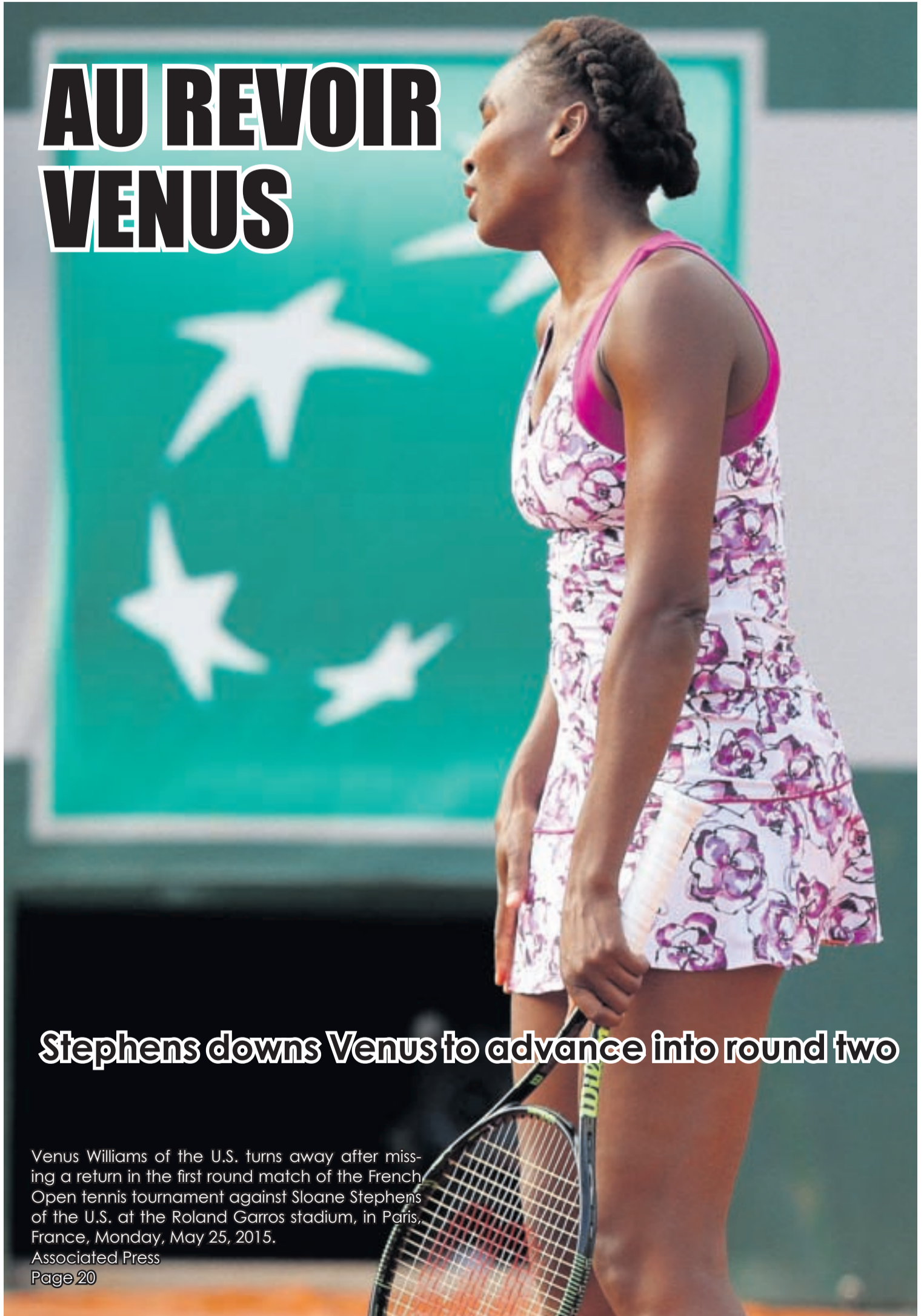
AU REVOIR VENUS

Stephens downs Venus to advance into round two

Venus Williams of the U.S. turns away after missing a return in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Sloane Stephens of the U.S. at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Monday, May 25, 2015.

Associated Press

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Baseball Capsules

Gardner, Yankees rough up Guthrie, Royals 14-1

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Gardner, Brian McCann and Chase Headley homered during an eight-run first inning as the New York Yankees quickly erased the memory of a lost weekend, romping past the American Central-leading Kansas City Royals 14-1 Monday. Stephen Drew added another three-run homer off a favorite foil of the Yankees, Jeremy Guthrie (4-3), before the team made an out in the second.

Slade Heathcott hit his first major league homer in the seventh as New York, coming off a sweep by Texas, snapped a six-game skid. The Yankees won for just the second time in 12 games, beating the team that began the day with the best record in the majors.

Nathan Eovaldi (4-1) pitched with runners on in all but two of his seven-plus innings. Working on five days' rest, he allowed eight hits and a run.

ORIOLES 4, ASTROS 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Caleb Joseph and Steve Pearce hit two-run homers off Dallas Keuchel as Baltimore dealt the left-hander his first loss in a victory over Houston.

Keuchel (6-1) came in with a 1.67 ERA and had won three straight starts. He allowed just one home run in nine appearances this season before Joseph connected in the second inning and Pearce went deep in the seventh.

Keuchel allowed six hits, struck out three and walked one over eight innings in his first complete game of 2015 and seventh of his career. George Springer had a season-high three hits and a homer for the Astros, who stranded seven and went 1 for 11 with runners in scoring



New York Yankees left fielder Brett Gardner (11) connects for a three-run home run against the Kansas City Royals during the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 25, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

position.

Brad Brach (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings of relief and Oliver Drake worked a perfect eighth before Zach Britton got three straight outs for his 11th save.

TWINS 7, RED SOX 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Ricky Nolasco struck out five in 7-plus innings and Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer to lead surging Minnesota to a victory over Boston. Nolasco (5-1) gave up two runs on seven hits to win his fifth straight start since coming off the disabled list. The Twins got 16 hits to pick up their AL-leading 16th win in May. After a 1-6 start the Twins (26-18) are now just two games behind first-place Kansas City in the AL Central.

Joe Kelly (1-4) lasted just 1 2-3 innings. He gave up seven runs on eight hits in a performance that sapped

any sense of momentum the Red Sox had after picking up two straight wins over the Angels.

Mike Napoli had two hits for Boston, but his string of three straight games with a homer was snapped.

ATHLETICS 4, TIGERS 0

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Jesse Hahn pitched a four-hitter for his first career complete game as Oakland beat Detroit for its first three-game winning streak this season.

Hahn (2-4) struck out five and walked one in his stellar 112-pitch performance. The right-hander pitched around three errors, but allowed only one runner to get to scoring position. He had never gone further than seven innings.

Max Muncy and Sam Fuld hit RBI doubles in the decisive four-run sixth inning.

Yoenis Cespedes went hitless in his first trip back to

Oakland since being traded to the Boston Red Sox last July 31. He joined the Tigers in another trade Dec. 11.

NATIONALS 2, CUBS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth and Tanner Roark pitched five effective innings as Washington beat Chicago.

Denard Span also homered for Washington, which has won eight of nine.

Making his first start of the season in place of the injured Doug Fister, Roark (1-2) allowed rookie Kris Bryant's sixth home run and struck out three. Four relievers combined for four innings of two-hit ball, with Drew Storen working the ninth for his NL-best 15th save in 16 attempts — closing out the five-hitter.

GIANTS 8, BREWERS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee won a challenge after Kris Davis was called out for missing the plate on a home run trot, but Hunter Pence and San Francisco wound up with the win.

Davis hit a pair of solo homers, including one that led to a bizarre sequence.

In the first inning, he pointed in the crowd in celebration and skipped across the plate. It appeared to both umpire Will Little and Giants catcher Andrew Susac that Davis' right foot failed to touch down on the dish, and he was ruled out.

Brewers manager Craig Counsell contested the call and after a replay review that took several minutes, the home run counted. Davis stomped firmly in the middle of the plate after homering in the third.

Pence's two-run double capped a seven-run rally in the sixth. Center fielder Carlos Gomez made two errors in the inning.

METS 6, PHILLIES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Wilmer Flores hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Justin De Fratus in the sixth inning to help Bartolo Colon win a day after his 42nd birthday as New York beat Philadelphia to stop a three-game losing streak.

With the score 3-all, Daniel Murphy led off the sixth with a single off Elvis Araujo (1-1), De Fratus walked Michael Cuddyer and Flores homered off the original 16-foot left-field wall, over the 8-foot blue fence erected in front of it for the 2012 season.

Colon (7-3) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, benefiting from plate umpire Larry Vanover's seemingly wide strike zone.

ROCKIES 5, REDS 4

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Reds lost a ninth straight game as Nolan Arenado homered, had three hits and drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning off Aroldis Chapman that gave Colorado the victory. This is the Reds' longest losing streak since they dropped 11 straight in June 1998 under manager Jack McKeon.

Arenado had a pair of singles and a solo homer off Reds starter Jason Marquis. He then helped the Rockies pull it out against Chapman (2-3), who came in for the ninth.

Charlie Blackmon opened with a walk and took third on D.J. Lemahieu's single. Blackmon scored easily on Arenado's fly to center fielder Billy Hamilton, whose throw was off-target.

Rafael Betancourt (2-1) retired the four batters he faced. John Axford gave up a walk in the ninth while getting his seventh save in as many chances. □

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NHL Roundup

Stamkos has goal and assist, Lightning beat Rangers 2-0

TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Steven Stamkos set up Valtteri Filppula's go-ahead goal and scored one of his own as the Tampa Bay Lightning pushed the New York Rangers to the brink of playoff elimination with 2-0 victory Sunday in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Ben Bishop, who gave up 10 goals in the previous two games, had 26 saves in posting his second shutout and getting Tampa Bay within a victory of reaching the Stanley Cup finals for the second time in franchise history. They won the Cup in 2004. Tampa Bay's special teams played a major role. They killed off four power plays in clinical fashion in the opening 31 minutes of a scoreless game, limiting New York to four shots, and then Stamkos added a power-play goal after Filppula opened the scoring.

Game 6 is Tuesday night in Florida. This isn't the first time the Rangers have been on the edge of seeing their Presidents' Trophy-winning season come to an end. They trailed the Washington Capitals 3-1 in the con-

ference semifinals and rallied. They also overcame a 3-1 deficit last year against Pittsburgh.

This was a game the Rangers controlled early. The power plays gave them a chance to put Tampa Bay down and they failed to convert, which was surprising because New York had two power-play goals in each of the three previous games in the series.

A little less than 2 minutes after the Lightning killed off a tripping penalty to Andrej Sustr, the Lightning took the lead and the excitement out of the Madison Square Garden crowd. Defenseman Anton Stralman sent a great bank pass up the side boards to Stamkos. He carried the puck into the Rangers' zone, found Filppula coming down the middle and the center beat Henrik Lundqvist with a shot to the upper part of the net. It was his third goal of the postseason and probably his most important.

The Lightning had withstood the Rangers' push and they were in control. After Marc Staal picked up his second penalty of the game, the Lightning needed just over a minute to double the lead. □



New York Rangers defenseman Dan Boyle (22) collides with Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Ryan Callahan (24) during the third period of Game 5 of the Eastern Conference final during the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs, Sunday, May 24, 2015, in New York. Associated Press

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Venus Williams ousted from French Open by Sloane Stephens

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — A loss by Venus Williams in the first round at a Grand Slam is no longer the rarity it once was.

And, as it happens, the woman who beat Williams at the French Open on Tuesday, Sloane Stephens, is making a concerted effort, at her coach's behest, to focus less on who is on the other side of the net.

Still, it was hard not to see the 22-year-old Stephens' 7-6 (5), 6-1 dismissal of seven-time major champion Williams, who at 34 was the oldest woman in the field, as a statement about the directions their respective careers are heading.

For the 15th-seeded Williams, it was her second opening defeat in three years at Roland Garros.

It also was the fifth time in the last 13 Grand Slam tournaments she's entered that she exited in the first round. Before that stretch, it happened once in 37 majors. Williams didn't show up for a news conference, meaning she could face a fine. Instead, she issued a five-sentence statement that read in part: "When you arrive at any tournament, you hope you will have a chance to work your way into the event, but I didn't have that opportunity — she just played better than me today."

That is true.

The 40th-ranked Stephens, who has reached the French Open's fourth round the last three years, was consistently strong from the baseline, making only 14



Sloane Stephens of the U.S. serves in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Venus Williams of the U.S. at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Monday, May 25, 2015.

Associated Press

unforced errors to Williams' 30.

"I want her to play with a sense of joy ... and play everything as well as she can, relentlessly, and not be concerned with the result. Let the result take care of itself. And she did a good job of that today," said Stephens' coach, Nick Saviano.

"I have noticed that missing. ... For any athlete, in any sport, at any high level, they must have that passion and the joy to perform," Saviano explained. "Otherwise, it becomes onerous. It becomes too much of a job, so to speak."

The biggest victory of Stephens' career came at the 2013 Australian Open, when she defeated Williams' younger sister Serena en route to the semifinals. This was the first time Stephens had faced Venus Williams, other than beat-

ing her in an exhibition as a teen.

"But," Stephens said, "I don't think that really counts."

Now Stephens joins Lindsay Davenport as the only Americans to have beaten each Williams at a Grand Slam tournament.

Two other seeded women lost Monday: No. 14 Agnieszka Radwanska, who was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2012, and No. 22 Barbora Strycova. Two seeded men exited, too, including No. 11 Feliciano Lopez, who now has 10 first-round exits in 15 appearances in Paris.

Winners included No. 3 Andy Murray, who played with his wedding ring tied to his shoe and improved to 11-0 since getting married, and defending women's champion Maria Sharapova.

She was jeered off Court

Philippe Chatrier for skipping the customary post-match interview, citing a cold. Sharapova coughed repeatedly while getting past Kaia Kanepi 6-2, 6-4, and when asked later about not talking to the fans, she said their reaction was "absolutely normal ... but I've got to do what I have to do."

Stephens was reserved during her on-court interview, referring to Williams as "someone we all looked up to for so long," but hardly celebrating as if this meant a lot to her.

"I think she's pleased. But she wants to perform well every day. She doesn't want to make a big deal out of one match," Saviano said. "And she shouldn't."

Stephens — whose late father, John Stephens, was the 1988 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year with the New England Patriots, and whose mother, Sybil Smith, was Boston University's first All-American in women's swimming — was composed throughout the match, finding the spots for her deep groundstrokes. OK, truth be told, she did lose her composure once.

Holding a break point in the second set's second game, Stephens was preparing to receive a serve

when the ball hit by Williams startled a pigeon, which flapped its wings and took off. Stephens,

in turn, was startled and released quite a shriek. Instead of an ace, the point was replayed, and Williams flubbed a shot to get broken.

"It was a very dramatic moment, I would say," Stephens said with a smile. "First of all, I didn't know what it was. I thought it was way closer to me than it actually was. So that was ... why I screamed so loud." □

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NBA Roundup

LeBron's triple-double helps Cavs top Hawks in thriller



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives between Atlanta Hawks' Paul Millsap and Kent Bazemore (24) during the second half in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs Sunday, May 24, 2015, in Cleveland. Associated Press

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James shook off an atrocious shooting start and withstood Atlanta's gritty comeback to record a triple-double as the Cleveland Cavaliers moved within one win of the NBA Finals by beating the Hawks 114-111 in overtime on Sunday to take a 3-0 series lead. James missed his first 10 shots, but finished with 37 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists. The Cavs needed every single one of them to hold off the top-seeded Hawks, who fought Cleveland until the final seconds despite being without injured shooter Kyle Korver and losing Al Horford, who was ejected in the first half. James hit a 3-pointer with 36.4 seconds left to put the Cavs ahead by one, and the superstar dropped a runner with 12.8 left to

make it 114-111.

"He just wouldn't let us lose," coach David Blatt said.

Atlanta had two chances to tie it in the final seconds, but Shelvin Mack missed two 3-pointers.

When the final horn sounded, an exhausted James, who was favoring his right leg for most of overtime, dropped to the floor and had to be helped to his feet.

"I worked extremely hard and for me as a leader no matter how I'm feeling I've got to try to make some plays," James said.

He'll have just one day to rest up before the Cavs try to earn their second Finals trip — and the fifth in a row for James — in Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Jeff Teague scored 30 points and Paul Millsap 22 for the Hawks, who scratched and clawed for

53 minutes.

Down 10 in the fourth, the Hawks showed championship toughness and nearly pulled off a win that would have guaranteed them another home game on Thursday. They'll have to dig deep again, and they are facing long odds to win the series as no NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 deficit.

Teague dropped a nasty, step-back jumper with 55 seconds left to put the Hawks up 111-109, but James answered — following an offensive rebound by Tristan Thompson — to knock down a corner 3 like the one he made at the buzzer to beat Chicago in the second round, making it 112-111 with 36.4 seconds left.

James then hit his runner over Millsap and the Cavs and 20,000 fans held their breath as Mack took two

cracks at the rim. The Cavs were again missing All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, sidelined for his second straight game with an injured left knee. But Cleveland has James, and even on a night when his shot wasn't falling, he carried the Cavs, who can earn their first trip to the Finals since James took them there in 2007.

Matthew Dellavedova and J.R. Smith added 17 points each for Cleveland. The Hawks took a one-point lead into third quarter when James decided to seize control of the game. He recorded 15 points, six rebounds and six assists in the period, but it only resulted in Cleveland having a 10-point lead early in the fourth. □



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SAT, SUN & HOL 3:35 | 6:20 | 9:05
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FRI 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SAT 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00



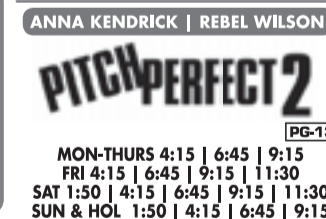
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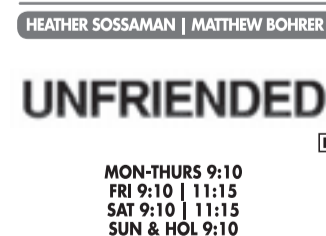
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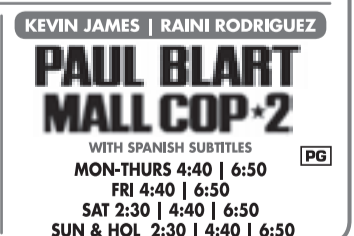
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HEATHER SOSSAMAN | MATTHEW BOHRER
UNFRIENDED R
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ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | CHRIS EVANS
THE AVENGERS AGE OF ULTRON PG-13
MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:00
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KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2 PG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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Carl Edwards races to first victory for new JGR team

PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) —

Even a master strategist like Joe Gibbs wasn't sure his team made the right call. The Super Bowl-winning coach, owner of Joe Gibbs Racing, had followed driver Denny Hamlin who was on top down the stretch in the Coca-Cola 600. But when Hamlin went to the pits to fix a wheel vibration, Gibbs saw team newcomer Carl Edwards was out front as his fuel was dwindling down.

"I turned around with nine to go and said, 'We can't make this, can we?'" Gibbs said.

Yes, they could. Edwards outlasted Greg Biffle over the final 20 laps to win the Coca-Cola 600 and take his first victory since joining JGR this season.

"I just had this feeling that we were gearing up for some really great stuff," Edwards said. "I guess for me, it's relief because I don't have to worry about the points."

Edwards is the third Gibbs racer with a victory this

season, joining Matt Kenseth and Denny Hamlin as likely entrants for the 10-race, end-of-the-season championship chase.

Still, it took crew chief Darian Grubb's call to pit earlier than most and stay out on the track while others scrambled to tank up and get fresh tires.

"We were not going to win this race on pure speed. That was obvious the first 550 miles or so," Edwards said.

"So (Grubb) put us in a position to win. Those guys were definitely fast and Darian beat them to it." "It may be a fuel mileage win, but it's still whoever gets from the start-finish line to the start-finish line over 600 miles the fastest," Grubb said. "So it doesn't really matter how we get there, we came out in front."

Edwards hadn't won in 31 races since June 2014 at Sonoma. He ended his long association with Roush Fenway Racing this past offseason, hoping for bigger things with JGR.

He got it at Charlotte Motor Speedway after shuffling in



Carl Edwards celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., Sunday, May 24, 2015.

Associated Press

front as most of his competitors needed green-flag pit stops close to the end. Most figured Edwards would have to stop, too, but he remained on the track and cruised to his first victory at Charlotte.

Greg Biffle was second, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., pole-sitter Matt Kenseth and Martin Truex Jr., who had his 11th top-10 finish in 12 events this season.

Edwards parked his car, did his signature back flip and rushed into the waiting arms of his crew, all jumping around in celebration. He climbed into the stands

to grab the checkered flag before heading to victory lane.

The win gave JGR a Charlotte sweep after Denny Hamlin won the All-Star Race on May 16th.

Hamlin looked like he might gain the sweep on his own, leading the pack with less than 50 laps remaining. But Hamlin felt a vibration in a wheel and had no choice but to head to the pits to straighten out — costing him his chance at the victory.

Hamlin finished eighth, then went to the care center to get checked out of com-

plaining of migraine headaches. He returned to congratulate Edwards, feeling better after taking fluids.

The fourth Joe Gibbs racer, new father Kyle Busch, was 11th in his first points race since breaking his right leg and left in a crash at Daytona three months ago.

Edwards capped racing's biggest day. It began when Nico Rosberg got his third straight win at the Monaco Grand Prix. It continued in Indianapolis when one-time NASCAR driver Juan Pablo Montoya won the Indy 500 for the second time. □

Raymacdonald

Continued from page 17

]“We believe in second chances, but when we signed Ray we were very clear what our expectations were if he was to remain a Bear,” General Manager Ryan Pace said in the statement. “He was not able to meet the standard, and the decision was made to release him.”

Bears guard Kyle Long quickly reacted to the move by tweeting “Good riddance.”

Chicago signed McDonald to a one-year contract in late March knowing it was a gamble given his history

of legal issues.

Chairman George McCaskey even acknowledged at the time that he initially told Pace not to go after him. But McCaskey came away impressed from a face-to-face conversation that he described as “very candid, very forthright” and “difficult” after McDonald paid his way to Chicago.

McCaskey talked to McDonald's parents but didn't talk to any lawyers involved in McDonald's cases or the accusers.

He cited a league investigation and said: “An alleged victim I think much like anybody else who has a bias in a situation there's a certain amount of dis-

counting what they have to say. But our personnel department had done its work looking into his background and the incidents and we had the benefit of two coaches who had been with him with the 49ers.

“I spoke with Vic Fangio and came away very impressed with what Vic had to say about him, that he's well-liked by his teammates, by his coaches, his strong work ethic. That he's considered a leader on the field and speaking to Vic and Ray especially I was convinced that he's sufficiently motivated to make this work.”

McDonald's agent, Tom

Condon, did not immediately return calls for comment Monday afternoon.

In December, the San Francisco 49ers released the 30-year-old, citing a “pattern of poor decision-making.”

In letting him go late in the season, 49ers General Manager Trent Baalke said, “Ray's demonstrated a pattern of poor decision-making that has led to multiple distractions to this organization and this football team that really can no longer be tolerated.”

His release from San Francisco came just a month after the Santa Clara County district attorney's office announced it had declined

to file charges against McDonald in a separate domestic violence investigation stemming from an arrest on Aug. 31 while celebrating his 30th birthday at his Northern California home.

Prosecutors cited conflicting versions of what happened, a lack of verifiable eyewitnesses and a lack of cooperation by the alleged victim, McDonald's fiancée, in explaining their decision not to pursue charges in the domestic violence investigation.

But his trouble continued. In March, McDonald filed a defamation lawsuit against a woman who had accused him of rape. □

Latest in food-track tech: Swipe a code, meet your fisherman

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

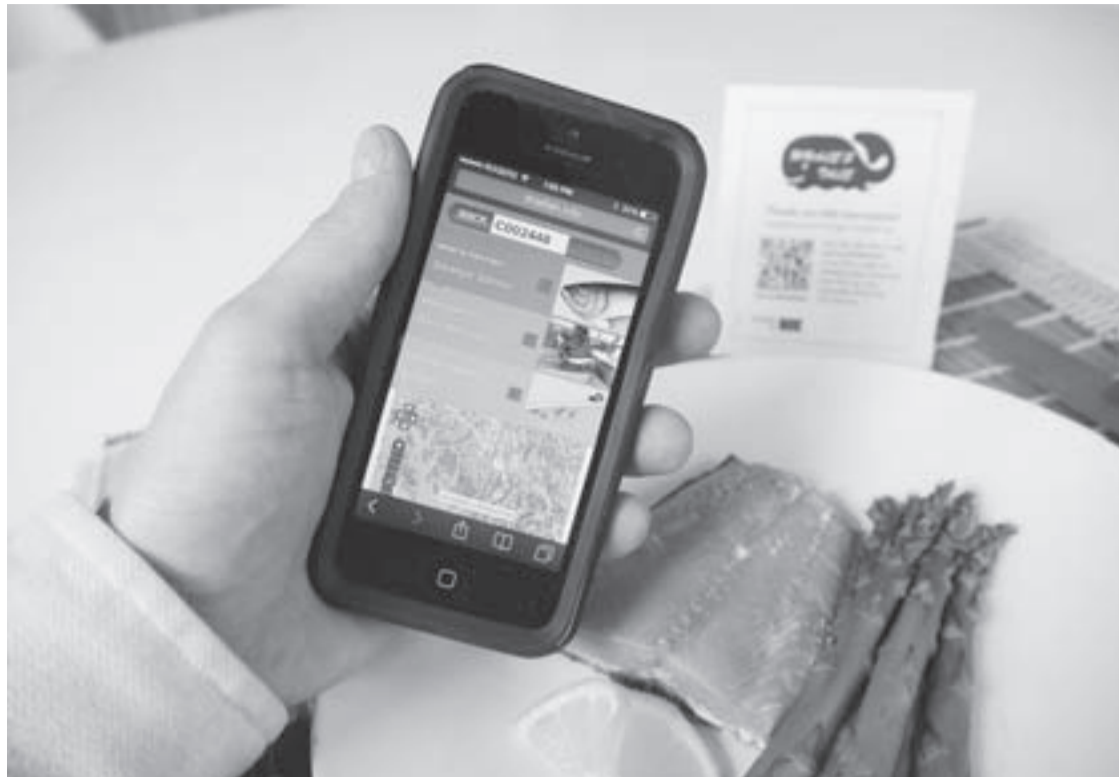
PORTLAND, Maine (AP)

-- After eyeing a piece of haddock on the supermarket counter, a customer scans a code and finds out the fish was caught in the waters of Georges Bank and learns the name of the fishing boat - and maybe even sees a picture of the smiling, rain-slickened fisherman who reeled it in. Welcome to the future of buying New England seafood.

A group of scientists and fishermen said the technology isn't about a gimmick so much as survival. They're working on a new tool they say will allow consumers to learn the backstory of a piece of fish while standing in the supermarket aisle with their smartphone.

In an era when many sectors of the New England fishing industry are struggling with depleted resources and choking catch quotas, increasing the cachet of local seafood could be the last, best hope, said Ben Martens, executive director of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, one of the groups involved in the "Boat to Plate" project.

"Most fishermen don't want to be involved in this kind of stuff. They want to go out into the water," said Martens, whose group represents 35 mostly small-



This April 2015 photo provided by Ecotrust Canada via This Fish shows the "Boat To Plate" smartphone app being created by a group of Maine fishermen and scientists that will allow consumers to source seafood all the way back to the fishermen who caught it.

Associated Press

boat fishermen. "We just don't think that's the way of the future."

Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland is developing the tool, which was recently awarded a \$175,000 federal government grant, in cooperation with Maine Coast.

Final release is about two years away and will likely take the form of a smartphone app, said Jen Levin, the institute's sustainable seafood program manager.

The project involves bringing together data about

the different pieces of the supply chain - including catch, landing, auction, processing and delivery - and allows the buyer to see all the way back to the fisherman, Levin said.

The plan is the latest in the fast-growing food traceability tech sector, which seeks to connect retailers, restaurants and customers with the origin and journey of their food.

The world market for food traceability technologies will reach \$11.15 billion in 2015, an increase of more than a half-billion dollars

from the previous year, according to market research firm Visiongain.

Consumers have had access to technology that connects them with the histories of such items as flour, berries, Alaskan salmon and antibiotic-free beef since the late 2000s, industry professionals said.

The QR codes - the black and white digital squares readable with a camera - appear in both farmers markets and high-end restaurants.

The Gulf of Maine seafood tool represents a new hori-

zon in food traceability in that it will use data from multiple sources to bring traceable seafood from a large, diverse fishery to supermarket consumers, Levin said.

Hannaford Supermarkets, which has more than 150 locations in New England and New York, is on board. Despite the growth of food tracking technology, it's not well-known to many consumers, and the industry is trying to change that, said Phil Werdal, CEO of Trace Register, a Washington-based digital traceability company and one of the industry's key players.

"I think it's in the very early stages of development, the consumer piece," Werdal said. "It's evolving and improving, but it's not that common right now."

Gulf of Maine Research Institute is working with Trace Register and Vancouver-based This Fish to make the tool possible.

The institute will likely initially apply it to seafood labeled through its sustainable seafood verification program, Levin said.

That program includes popular New England staples such as cod and lobster that are pulled from the waters in and around the Gulf of Maine, a critical fishing ground that touches three states and two Canadian provinces. □

PayPal's new chief promises new services for a mobile world

By BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- As

PayPal prepares to split from its corporate parent, its new chief executive is promising to expand the popular online payment system, adding a variety of services for consumers to use when shopping on their phones or in traditional stores.

PayPal will be spinning off from parent company eBay later this year at a time when it's facing new competitive challenges. Alibaba, Amazon and even Facebook are promoting online payment systems, while Apple Pay and

Google Wallet are competing to handle transactions in stores and on mobile devices.

Veteran executive Dan Schulman, who will be CEO of the new PayPal, says his company will compete by positioning itself as a "full-service" payments partner for consumers and merchants, handling mobile transactions, credit purchases and even customer loyalty rewards programs. PayPal was best known for many years as a payment method for purchases made on desktop computers. But consumers are increasingly using mobile phones to shop online and

even when they make purchases in traditional, brick-and-mortar stores. Almost a third of transactions handled by PayPal are now made on mobile devices.

"Those worlds are blurring," Schulman told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday. "When you go into a store environment, and you have your mobile phone with you, it should be a simple step to do a checkout from that device."

Schulman spoke after an event where PayPal announced new partnerships with companies that help merchants sell goods online around the world, including

in India and China. PayPal also touted a recent partnership with Burger King that lets consumers pay for their meals with a smartphone app.

"We want to be more than just a button on a merchant's website," Schulman said. "We really want to provide a full suite of services and products."

That includes expanding a PayPal credit service that lets shoppers spread payments over time and the Venmo mobile app that lets individuals exchange small sums when they split a bill or repay a debt. PayPal is also extending a service for websites and mobile

apps that remembers an individual's account information and shipping address, so they don't have to be re-typed with every new purchase.

PayPal, which is based in San Jose, California, has stumbled in one arena. Without admitting wrongdoing, the company agreed this week to pay \$25 million over U.S. regulators' allegations that it signed up some customers for credit they didn't want. "Sometimes you try and do things and they're not always perfect. We want to fix them as much as any regulator wants to fix them," Schulman said. □

Headline Charter said to be near deal to buy Time Warner Cable

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
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Charter Communications is near a deal to buy Time Warner Cable for about \$55 billion, a person with direct knowledge of the talks said Monday, a takeover that would create a new powerhouse in the rapidly consolidating U.S. cable in-

year.

A deal could be announced as soon as Tuesday, although this person cautioned that talks were continuing and might still fall apart.

The potential acquisition of Time Warner Cable completes a lengthy quest by Charter and its main back-

European telecommunications company Altice agreed to buy Suddenlink for about \$9 billion.

And Charter is also nearing an agreement to acquire another cable operator, Bright House Networks, in a transaction that could also be announced soon.

Last year, Malone tried to penetrate the U.S. broadband industry, but Charter was foiled by its larger rival, Comcast, which bid \$45 billion for Time Warner Cable. Comcast, the country's biggest cable operator, ultimately failed in its effort, with federal antitrust regulators believing that the merger would have been untenable.

Since the collapse of the Comcast agreement, Charter has worked to win over its onetime reluctant target, focusing on a friendly deal and acknowledging that it would have to pay a much higher price tag.

Yet the company may still face competition for Time Warner Cable in the form of Altice, which has ambitions to extend its telecom empire across the Atlantic, beginning with the acquisition of Suddenlink.□



A Time Warner Cable truck is parked in New York. Charter Communications is near a deal to buy Time Warner Cable for about \$55 billion, a person with direct knowledge of the talks said Monday.
(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

dusty.

Under the proposed terms of the deal, Charter will pay about \$195 a share in cash and stock. That is roughly 14 percent higher than Time Warner Cable's closing stock price Friday - and 47 percent higher than Charter's original bid for its rival from early last

er, the billionaire John C. Malone, to break into the top tier of the U.S. broadband industry.

If completed, the transaction would be the latest in a series of mergers remaking the market for broadband Internet and cable television in the United States. Just last week, the

Amazon to stop funneling European sales through low-tax haven

MARK SCOTT
© 2015 New York Times

In the continuing battle between European and American tech companies, score one for Europe. In a move that could put pressure on its rivals to follow suit, Amazon will start paying taxes in a number of European countries where it has large operations, instead of funneling nearly all its sales through Luxembourg, a low-tax haven that is the home base in the region for Amazon and many other large tech companies.

Several European countries, including Germany and France, have criticized the tax strategies of some U.S. tech companies,

including Google, which use complicated structures that sharply reduce the amount of tax they pay in individual European countries.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, is also investigating whether Apple and Amazon receive unfair state support through low-tax agreements in Ireland and Luxembourg, respectively, where the companies run their European operations.

On May 1, Amazon said that it had started reporting revenue from its operations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. By altering how it reports its revenue, the online retailer may be-

come liable for larger tax charges in certain nations, though it may still be able to reduce its tax burden through other complex accounting practices.

Amazon reported a 14 percent rise in European revenue, to 13.6 billion euros, or \$15 billion, in 2013 (the latest full-year figures available), according to company filings.

"We regularly review our business structure to ensure that we are able to best serve our customers," Amazon said in a statement Sunday. The company added that the changes to how it reported revenue from its European operations had started more than two years ago.□

The Week Ahead in Business

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US Market indexes were closed Monday for the observance of Memorial Day.

LAW FIRM TRIAL

Opening arguments in the criminal trial of three former top executives of Dewey & LeBoeuf, the once-mighty New York law firm that collapsed in May 2012, are scheduled to begin on Tuesday in a courtroom in state Supreme Court in Manhattan. The trial is expected to last up to six months and will delve into some of the arcane accounting maneuvers that prosecutors charge the former executives, all of whom are lawyers, used to hide the law firm's failing finances from creditors, bond investors and lenders. The three defendants - Steven Davis, Dewey's former chairman; Stephen DiCarmine, the firm's former executive director; and Joel Sanders, the former chief financial officer - are charged with dozens of criminal counts and could spend years in prison if convicted.

CONFIDENCE CHECK

A gauge of consumer spending, which is one measure of consumer confidence, will be out Tuesday from the Conference Board. Rising gas prices and stagnant wages are probably to blame for what is expected to be a relatively low showing of confidence.

MONEY MEETING

Finance ministers and the heads of central banks from the Group of 7 nations will meet in Dresden, Germany, on Wednesday through Friday. While Greece is not on the formal agenda, the risk of the country soon going bankrupt and leaving the eurozone is likely to be a major theme. The meeting comes ahead of a summit meeting of the G7 heads of government, including President Barack Obama, in Bavaria next month.

TRADE PACT VOTE

The influential Committee on International Trade at the European Parliament is expected to vote on Thursday on a report assessing a planned trade and investment deal between the European Union and the United States. The role of the lawmakers is advisory at this stage. But the full parliament would have a final say on whether to approve an eventual Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. The planned deal, which is being negotiated by trade officials in Washington and Brussels, has attracted strong criticism from some lawmakers who are concerned that it would diminish the ability of European Union member states to make rules protecting food quality, the environment and labor rights. The full parliament is expected to vote on the report next month.

GDP REVISION

Revised Commerce Department data on the gross domestic product, due out on Friday, is expected to show that the economy shrunk during the first quarter of the year. Earlier data on first-quarter GDP indicated that the economy barely grew, at 0.2 percent. If analysts' predictions hold true for the revised data, it would be the first contraction in a year. Economists blame a bigger gulf than anticipated in the trade deficit, among other causes.

SILK ROAD SENTENCE

Ross Ulbricht, the founder of the Silk Road, the online drug bazaar, will be given his prison sentence on Friday in federal court in Manhattan.

Ulbricht was convicted in February on seven counts related to his operation of the Silk Road, which grew into a huge global enterprise before Ulbricht's arrest in October 2013. The site was often compared to an eBay for drugs and relied on the Bitcoin virtual currency for payments.□

Building Spiritual Capital



DAVID BROOKS
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Lisa Miller is a professor of psychology and education at Columbia University. One day she entered a subway car and saw that half of it was crowded but the other half was empty, except for a homeless man who had some fast food on his lap and who was screaming at anybody who came close.

At one stop, a grandmother and granddaughter, about 8, entered the car. They were elegantly dressed, wearing pastel dresses and gloves with lace trim. The homeless man spotted them and screamed, "Hey! Do you want to sit with me?" They looked at each other, nodded and replied in unison, "Thank you," and, unlike everybody else, sat directly next to him.

The man offered them some chicken from his bag. They looked at each other and nodded and said, "No, thank you." The homeless man offered several more times, and each time they nodded to each other and gave the same polite answer. Finally, the homeless man was calmed, and they all sat contentedly in their seats.

Miller was struck by the power of that nod.

"The nod was spirituality shared between child and beloved elder: spiritual direction, values, taught and received in the loving relationship," she writes in her book "The Spiritual Child."

The grandmother was teaching the granddaughter the wisdom that we were once all strangers in a strange land and that we're judged by how we treat those who have the least.

Miller's core argument is that spiritual awareness is innate and that it is an important component in human development. An implication of her work is that if you care about social mobility, graduation rates, resilience, achievement and family formation, you can't ignore the spiritual resources of the people you are trying to help.

Miller defines spirituality as "an inner sense of relationship to a higher power that is loving and guiding." Different people can conceive of this higher power as God, nature, spirit, the universe or just a general oneness of being. She distinguishes spirituality, which has a provable genetic component, from religious affiliation, which is entirely influenced by environment.

I'd say Miller doesn't pay sufficient attention to the many secular, this-world ways people find

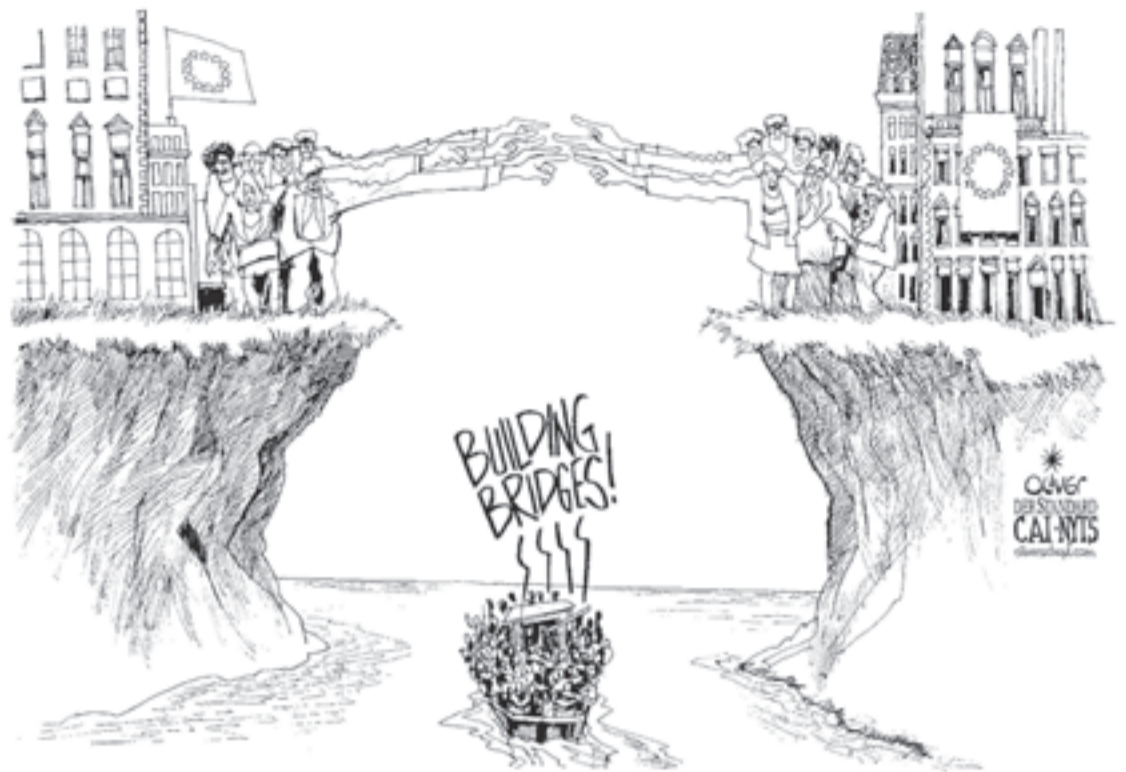
to organize their lives. Still, it does seem true that most children are born with a natural sense of the spiritual. If they find a dead squirrel on the playground, they understand there is something sacred there, and they will most likely give it a respectful burial. They have a natural sense of the oneness of creation, and a sense of a transcendent, nonmaterial realm. Miller cites twin studies that suggest that the strength of a child's spiritual awareness is about 29 percent because of broad genetic heritability, 24 percent because of family environment and 47 percent because of a person's unique individual environment.

Spiritual awareness, she continues, surges in adolescence, at about the same time as depression and other threats to well-being. Some level of teenage depression, she says, should be seen as a normal part of the growth process, as young people ask fundamental questions of themselves. The spiritual surge in adolescence is nature's way of responding to this normal crisis. Taken together," Miller writes, "research supports the idea of a common physiology underlying depression and spirituality."

In other words, teenagers commonly suffer a loss of meaning, confidence and identity. Some of them try to fill the void with drugs, alcohol, gang activity and even pregnancy. But others are surrounded by people who have cultivated their spiritual instincts. According to Miller's research, adolescents with a strong sense of connection to a transcendent realm are 70 percent to 80 percent less likely to engage in heavy substance abuse. Among teenage girls, having a strong spiritual sense was extremely protective against serious depression. Adults who consider themselves highly spiritual at age 26 are, according to her research, 75 percent protected against recurrence of depression.

Innate spiritual capacities can wither unless cultivated - the way that innate math faculties can go undeveloped without instruction. Loving families nurture these capacities, especially when parents speak explicitly about spiritual quests. The larger question, especially in this age of family disruption, is whether public schools and other institutions should do more to nurture spiritual faculties.

Public schools often give short shrift to spirituality for fear that they would be accused of proselytizing religion. But it should be possible to teach the range of spiritual disciplines, in order to familiarize students with the options, without endorsing any one. In an era in which so many people slip off the rails during adolescence, we don't have the luxury of ignoring a resource that, if cultivated, could see them through. Ignoring spiritual development in the public square is like ignoring intellectual, physical or social development. It is to amputate people in a fundamental way, leading to more depression, drug abuse, alienation and misery. □



The Power of Hope Is Real



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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An awkward truth for bleeding hearts like myself is that there has never been much rigorous evidence that outside aid can sustainably lift people out of poverty.

Sure, evidence is overwhelming that aid can overcome disease, boost literacy and save lives. But raising incomes is trickier - and the evidence in that arena has been squishier.

Now that's changing. A vast randomized trial - the gold standard of evidence - involving 21,000 people in six countries suggests that a particular aid package called the graduation program (because it aims to graduate people from poverty) gives very poor families a significant boost that continues after the program ends. Indeed, it's an investment. In India, the economic return was a remarkable 433 percent.

The heart of this aid package? A cow. Or a few goats. Even bees. Why would a cow have such an effect? This gets interesting: There's some indication that one mechanism is hope. Whether in America or India, families that are stressed and impoverished - trapped in cycles of poverty - can feel a hopelessness that becomes self-fulfilling. Give people reason to hope that they can achieve a better life, and that, too, can be self-fulfilling.

In the graduation program, recipients of livestock were inspired to work more hours, even in areas unrelated to the livestock. They took more odd jobs. Their savings rose. Their mental health improved.

"Poverty is not just poverty of money or income," noted Sir Fazle Abed, founder of a Bangladeshi aid group called BRAC that developed the graduation program. "We also see a poverty of self-esteem, hope, opportunity and freedom. People trapped in a cycle of destitution often don't realize their lives can be changed for the better through their own activities. Once they understand that, it's like a light gets turned on."

Esther Duflo, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a co-author of the study, believes that's right. "The mental health part is absolutely critical," she said. "Poverty causes stress and depression and lack of hope, and stress and depression and lack of hope, in turn, cause poverty."

Could hopelessness and stress create a "poverty trap" - abroad or here in the U.S. - in which people surrender to a kind of whirlpool of despair? Some economists and psychologists are finding evidence to support that theory, and experiments are underway to see if raising spirits can lift economic outcomes.

One study found that Ethiopians randomly assigned to watch an hourlong inspirational video ended up saving more and spending more on their children's education, compared with participants randomly assigned to watch an hour of comedy television. The forward-leaning behaviors persisted in a six-month follow-up.

Researchers are now studying whether exposure to religion might have a similar effect, improving economic outcomes. If so, Marx had the wrong drug in mind: religion would not be an opiate of the masses but an amphetamine.

The graduation program is a bit similar to the model of the well-

known group Heifer International, which I've written about before and provides "gifts of hope" such as heifers, goats and chickens to impoverished families. "There was a lot of excitement - with just a hint of smugness! - at Heifer at the published results," said Pierre Ferrari, the president of Heifer. But the graduation model includes a couple of other elements.

The graduation program starts with a cow or other animals, as well as training on how to raise them. It includes months of food or cash support, partly to reduce the need to eat or sell the animal in a financial crisis. There's a savings account (microlending has disappointed in randomized trials, but microsavings works very well), health education and regular coaching to reinforce skills and build confidence.

The study, which was just published in the journal *Science*, found that the graduation model was enormously successful in India, Ethiopia, Ghana and Pakistan, and somewhat less effective in Peru and in Honduras (where some animals died). A follow-up found the effects still strong three years after the donation of the animals.

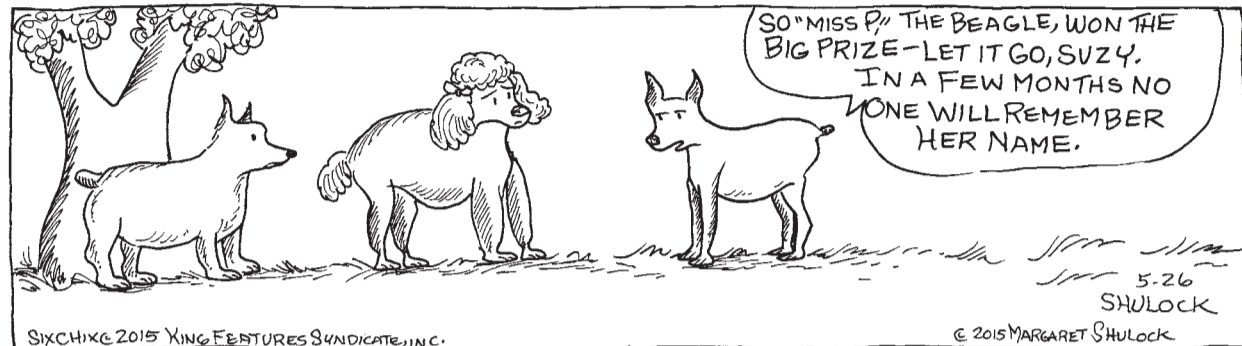
Dean Karlan, a Yale economist who is co-author of the study, said that aid groups focused on very similar approaches include Trickle Up, the Boma Project, Village Enterprise and Fonkoze. Karlan's students in a seminar on philanthropy were given a pool of money from a foundation and the challenge to donate it where it would do the most good; they spent the term reviewing the evidence and, in the end, voted to donate it to Trickle Up.

So bleeding hearts, rejoice! Much of the news about global poverty is depressing, but this is fabulous: a large-scale experiment showing, with rigorous evidence, what works to lift people out of the most extreme poverty. And it's exhilarating that one of the lessons may be so simple and human: the power of hope. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6	1	9			8
	3					4		
		2		8		9		
	1			3			5	
9	2						4	7
	4			6			8	
		1		7		5		
		6					3	
3			1	9	8			

Difficulty Level ★★

5/26

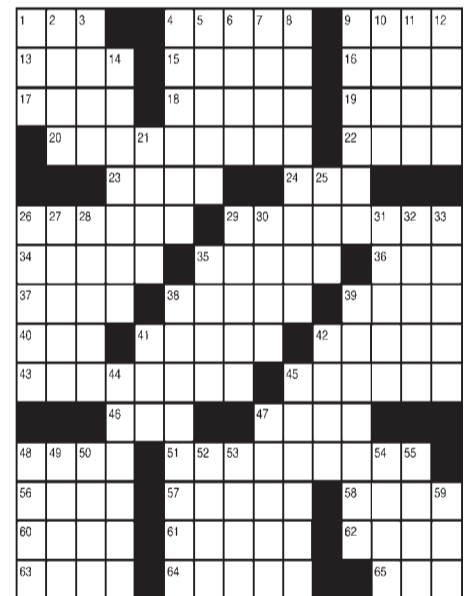
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	8	5	1	3	4	7	9	6
6	9	1	8	7	2	4	5	3
4	3	7	5	6	9	8	1	2
1	6	9	7	4	8	2	3	5
3	5	4	6	2	1	9	8	7
7	2	8	3	9	5	1	6	4
8	1	2	4	5	3	6	7	9
9	7	3	2	8	6	5	4	1
5	4	6	9	1	7	3	2	8

ACROSS

- Jan.'s follower
- Basics
- Sheep cries
- Diminish
- Hold tightly
- Poison ivy symptom
- Becker of tennis
- At any __; nevertheless
- Most run-down
- Watched
- Postman's load
- Tell a fib
- __ out; swing and miss thrice
- Part of making sausage
- Heavy lifting machine
- More than tipsy
- Gunk
- Ladder step
- For the time __; meanwhile
- Too
- Play a role
- Water sources
- Sheets of ice on the ocean
- Soldier's dining room
- Gloomy
- And not
- Nary a one
- __ crackers; saltines
- Find out for sure about
- Fashionable
- __ out; say without thinking
- Faucet problem
- Pig's comment
- Insect stage
- Meditative exercise
- Foot digits
- Glowing coal
- Org. for Sharks and Canucks



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/26/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

ICING	TWAS	OFFA
LATER	IOWA	PROS
LIASSO	LEES	PORT
SNATCHES	SPONGE	
LEAS	MEANDER	
ALBERT	AISLE	
DOE	YELLS	ENDOW
ACES	DATED	TAPE
MONTH	BERRA	MEN
RACER	ABSENT	
SEVERAL	KIRK	
TROUPE	MANEATER	
ANDS	SUIT	ATONE
BIKE	ANTI	SENDS
SEAL	ROTE	TRYST

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5/26/15

DOWN

- J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
- Dines
- Johann Sebastian __
- Taxi driver
- Bubbling away on the stove
- Nude
- Ending for an inflammation
- Baby bird
- Concurred
- Hee-haw
- Give a traffic ticket to
- Ran fast
- Humiliating
- Cake recipe verb
- Pen contents
- "Get lost!"
- Cease-fire
- Talks wildly
- Barbecue
- Gallops
- Home made of snow
- Snouts
- As silly as a __
- Valley

- Tolerable
- "So soon?"
- Which person?
- Times New Roman or Arial
- Eats between meals
- Bricklayer's plaster
- Chutzpah
- Dundee fellow
- Canton's state
- Have supper
- Close noisily
- Sidewalk edge
- Common metal
- Near
- Friend

Venezuela

Continued from page 11

A bottle of vegetable oil costs 20 cents at the black market rate, a package of rice costs half that, and a sack of sugar costs even less.

Still, many working-class Venezuelans are looking for ways to accumulate their own stockpile of the U.S. currency by offering services to wealthy or foreign clients.

"It's the only way we can try to stay ahead," said one gym teacher who supplements his \$25 a month salary by offering personal training to clients who can pay in dollars. The teacher, who asked that his name not be used to protect his safety, keeps his bills hidden around his home until a friend or obliging client can deposit them in his Miami bank account.

The move toward currency substitution doesn't sit well with hardcore government supporters, many of whom cut their political teeth listening to Chavez's tirades against the "dictatorship of the dollar."

"How is it possible that in the face of the U.S. effort to sabotage the revolution, we are allowing transnational companies to conduct business with the imperialist dollar in our country?" wrote Omar Hernandez, an engineer who works for Chavista community programs, on the influential pro-government website Aporeta. Steve Hanke, a Johns Hopkins University economist who has long advised governments facing currency crises, says replacing the bolivar with the dollar would nip Venezuela's inflation problem almost overnight and become an anchor of economic stability, though it could also force austerity measures. He points to the example of Maduro ally Rafael Correa in Ecuador, who has railed against the U.S. during his eight years in office but has so far shown no desire to bring back the old national currency, which the country did away with in favor of the dollar. □

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Study: Europeans to suffer more ragweed with global warming

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Global warming will bring much more sneezing and wheezing to Europe by mid-century, a new study says.

Ragweed pollen levels are likely to quadruple for much of Europe because warmer temperatures will allow the plants to take root more, and carbon dioxide will make them grow more, says a study published Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. Other factors not related to man-made climate change will also contribute.

Ragweed isn't native to Europe, but was imported from America in the late 19th century. It hasn't quite become established all over the continent, at least not yet.

Parts of France, the United Kingdom and Germany don't have the allergens now, but they will by 2050, says study co-author Robert Vautard, a climate scientist at the Climate and Environment Scienc-



In this Aug. 14, 2001 file photo, pollen on a ragweed plant in is seen Newark, N.J. A new study says global warming will bring much more sneezing and wheezing to Europe by mid-century.

Associated Press

es Laboratory in Yvette, France. That includes Paris, where Vautard lives.

"As warmer temperatures and higher carbon dioxide concentrations allow ragweed to become more vigorous and invade further north, we

can expect to see many more allergy sufferers," said Daniel Chapman, an invasive species expert at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Edinburgh, Scotland. He did not take part in the study, but praised it.

The researchers used computer simulations with different scenarios of carbon dioxide pollution for the next 35 years. And if the world doesn't make a large change in emissions from coal, oil and gas, the computer runs

predicted increases in the annual pollen count of 100 to 1,100 percent, with a general average of around 300 percent, Vautard said.

Land use and the way the non-native plants take over new areas account for about one-third of the increased ragweed counts, with climate change the rest, Vautard said.

Earlier studies show that ragweed pollen season in North America has already extended by as much as three weeks in some northern locales, partly because of climate change.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency climate scientist Michael Kollan, who wasn't part of the new study, said the French study fits with previous research and the U.S. National Climate Assessment, which concluded "climate change, as well as increased carbon dioxide by itself, can contribute to increased production of plant-based allergens." □

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'Tomorrowland' takes top spot at box office on slow weekend

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The future doesn't look so bright for "Tomorrowland." Disney's expensive fantasy adventure essentially had Memorial Day weekend to itself, and still only pulled in a modest \$41.7 million in its first four days in theaters according to Rentrak estimates on Monday.

It's a disappointing debut for a film that cost a reported \$180 million to produce. Disney put their full weight behind the Brad Bird-directed film with an ambitious George Clooney-led promotional campaign.

"It's not ever ideal to be below your estimate before the weekend starts, but it feels like it's too early to judge the run," said Disney's Distribution EVP Dave Hollis. Going into the weekend, tracking put the film in the \$40 to \$50 million range. And yet, he said, this is the gamble that studios must take when trying to introduce an original film to the marketplace.

Hollis noted that "Tomorrowland" will be one of the only PG-rated family films in theaters until Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out" opens on June 19, which could be promising for its longevity — especially considering that many schools have yet to close for the summer. "We are optimistic that originality and the vision that Brad Bird put on the screen is something that people will find and evangelize and hopefully get other folks to show up," said Hollis.

Rentrak's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian said that the mystery behind "Tomorrowland's" plot might have hurt the film.

"When audiences are spending their hard earned cash on a blockbuster or tent-pole movie, they kind of want to know what they're getting going in, for better or worse," he said.

Last weekend's well-received holdovers "Pitch Perfect 2" and "Mad Max: Fury Road" helped prop up the holiday weekend totals. Both films experienced



This photo released by Disney shows, Britt Robertson as Casey, in a scene from Disney's "Tomorrowland." Associated Press

modest drops and earned \$38.5 million and \$32.1 million respectively.

"Avengers: Age of Ultron" placed fourth with \$27.8 million.

Meanwhile, Fox's "Poltergeist" remake debuted in fifth place, with an estimated

\$26.5 million.

Director Gil Kenan's update of Tobe Hooper's 1982 horror classic cost \$35 million to produce. The studio expected an opening in the low \$20 million range.

"I think for our filmmakers, who had set out not to just

remake a classic but to introduce a new generation of fans to the genre, it was very successful," said Fox's domestic distribution chief Chris Aronson.

Audiences for the PG-13 rated film were 59 percent under the age of 25.

Overall, though, there wasn't much to celebrate over this holiday weekend. Memorial Day weekends are usually reserved for high-earning franchise fare.

The past two years saw the over \$100 million debuts of "X-Men: Days of Future Past" and "Fast & Furious 6." When box office totals are finalized on Tuesday, this could prove to be one of the worst performing in recent years.

"The industry went into this weekend knowing we weren't going to break any records," said Dergarabedian.

"This is more of a case of audiences, somewhat, turning their back on original content when it comes to big blockbusters."

But, hope is certainly not lost for a banner 2015 at the box office, with more surefire blockbusters like "Jurassic World" and "Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation" yet to open.

"Summer is not going to be a bummer this year. This is a bump in the box office road," said Dergarabedian. □

Agent: 'Lawrence of Arabia' star Omar Sharif has Alzheimer's



In this Sept. 10, 2009, file photo, Egyptian actor Omar Sharif gestures during the photo call at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leg-

endary "Lawrence of Ara-

bia" actor Omar Sharif is battling Alzheimer's dis-

ease, his agent Steve Kenis confirmed to The Associat-

ed Press on Monday.

No additional details were provided about the 83-year-old or his care. His son, Tarek Sharif, revealed the diagnosis in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Mundo on May 23.

The Egyptian-born Sharif rose to international stardom with his role in the 1962 epic "Lawrence of Arabia"— Sharif's first English-language film.

He earned an Oscar nomination for his turn as Sherif Ali in David Lean's iconic film opposite Peter O'Toole. Sharif followed the breakthrough performance with the title role in Lean's "Doctor Zhivago," co-starring Julie Christie. He then played Fanny Brice's husband, Nicky Arnstein, in "Funny Girl" alongside Barbra Streisand. □

Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell together again for new album



In this April 30, 2015 photo, musicians Rodney Crowell, left, and Emmylou Harris pose for a portrait to promote their album "The Traveling Kind" in New York.

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Even though the server got his order wrong, Rodney Crowell waits patiently for his egg-white omelet. He chats with Emmylou Harris as she picks at her grapefruit, revealing his easygoing nature and their comfort with each other.

But more than having similar personalities, it's evident they share the same sense of values.

Friends for almost four decades, it wasn't until a few years ago that they recorded an album together. That one turned out pretty well — "Old Yellow Moon" won the Grammy for best Americana album. It included some covers and a few songs penned by Crowell. That experience was so positive they decided to step it up on the recently released "The Traveling Kind" by co-writing seven of the album's 11 songs. Now they're off touring the United States and Europe to promote it.

"I would certainly say the writing process was fun. On 'Old Yellow Moon,' we didn't do any writing together," Crowell said.

Harris agreed, adding that from her perspective, their fruitful collaboration derives

from what she describes as Crowell's "Rodney-ness."

"We have no tension," she said. "We've never even had an argument."

Crowell added: "I guess you might say there's no ego because our relationship is based on friendship." While Crowell penned a few of the songs on their first album and he and Harris co-wrote a majority on the new one, he doesn't feel like you have to write a song to give a piece of yourself to the music. It's something he feels Harris does very well.

He cites an artist that both have a connection with to prove his point.

"Johnny Cash and Emmy are similar in a way. People ask me and I say Emmy has a poet's soul, so when she records outside material, as John did, there's a poetic sensibility," Crowell said.

Harris was influenced by Cash at an early age and was one of the artists who appeared on the recent cover album, "Look Again to the Wind: Johnny Cash's Bitter Tears Revisited." Originally released in 1964, that album provided strong commentary about the U.S. government's mistreatment of Native Americans. She remembers buying "Bitter Tears" when it came

out.

"I remember finding it in a bin. ... I had that record and was impressed by the wrongs he tried to right, and I thought, 'He's one of us,'" Harris said, speaking of her early influence of folk music.

Cash's record label tried talking him out of releasing the album, fearing it would alienate his country music fan base, but his regard for speaking out against injustice was more important. That's something that's always resonated with Harris.

"John wasn't just country. He was always in his own world of music. He transcended every type," she said.

Crowell's relationship goes a little deeper. He was once married to Cash's daughter, Rosanne, and has three daughters with her. He doesn't think the music world will see an artist like Cash again.

"The formulaic aspect of country music today doesn't really entertain the notion of casting about a poetic narrative like John did," he said.

Harris pointed out that the socio-economic upbringing that influenced artists like Cash and Hank Williams has changed a great deal. "That era is gone.□

Associated Press



In this Aug. 22, 2012 photograph, the then 86-year-old B.B. King thrills a crowd of several hundred people at the annual B.B. King Homecoming, a free concert on the grounds of an old cotton gin where he worked as a teenager many years ago, in Indianola, Miss.

Associated Press

Lawyer says allegations B.B. King was poisoned 'ridiculous'

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Two B.B. King heirs who've been most outspoken about the blues legend's care in his final days are accusing King's two closest aides of poisoning him, but the attorney for King's estate is calling the claims ridiculous.

Three doctors determined that King was appropriately cared-for, and King received 24-hour care and monitoring by medical professionals "up until the time that he peacefully passed away in his sleep," attorney Brent Bryson told the AP on Monday.

Daughters Karen Williams and Patty King allege that family members were prevented from visiting while King's business manager, LaVerne Toney, and his personal assistant, Myron Johnson, hastened their father's death.

Toney is named in King's will as executor of an estate that, according to court documents filed by lawyers for some of King's heirs, could total tens of millions of dollars.

Johnson was at B.B. King's bedside when he died May 14 in hospice care at home in Las Vegas at age 89. No family members were present. "I believe my father was poisoned and that he was administered foreign

substances," Patty King and Williams say in identically worded sections of affidavits provided to The Associated Press by their lawyer, Larissa Drohobycz.

"I believe my father was murdered," they say. Toney and Johnson each declined to comment on the accusations.

"They've been making allegations all along. What's new?" said Toney, who worked for King for 39 years and had power-of-attorney over his affairs.

A week before King's death, a judge in Las Vegas dismissed a request from Williams to take over as King's guardian.

An April 29 petition alleged that Toney had blocked King's friends from visiting him and had put her family members on King's payroll. It also alleged that large sums of money had disappeared from King's bank accounts.

But Clark County Family Court Hearing Master Jon Norheim said on May 7 that police and social services investigations in October and April uncovered no reason to take power-of-attorney from Toney.

Williams, Patty King and another daughter— Rita Washington — vowed to keep fighting.

"We lost the battle, but we haven't lost the war," Williams said then.□

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